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THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,674 TUESDAY 28 JULY 1998 (IR50p) 45p

IN THE NEWS SECTION

England escape to victory

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW

TUESDAY REVIEW 'All they know is how to kill'

Boy soldiers trained to kill

TUESDAY REVIEW FRONT

Mother, I hardly knew you

FEATURES PLUS COMMENT, HEALTH & MEDIA

Doctor suspended and 1,000 women re-called in cancer treatment scandal

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

MORE THAN 1,000 women at serious risk of cervical cancer have been recalled by a London teaching hospital after checks revealed life-threatening errors in their treatment.

Graham Barker, a senior doctor, has been suspended at St George's Hospital, in Tooting, south London, after 19 women with advanced cancer were ideotified in the eight months up to last March. Two of the women have died. An independent review has confirmed that in 12 of the 19 cases, including one of the women who died, the early treatment giveo was "unsatisfactory" or "gave cause for concern".

The incideot is potentially more serious than the 1996 scandal at Kent and Canterbury hospital, the worst so far, in which at least eight women died and 90,000 were recalled after screening errors led to women with early signs of cancer being missed. The errors at St George's occurred at a later stage, when women already ideotified with warning signs of cancer from their cervical smears were wrongly treated.

The women were contacted by letter yesterday, and their GPs were alerted, after a five-month review involving examination of records of 5,000 women going back 10 years.

All the women were treated by Mr Barker at St George's following cervical smears showing moderate to severe abnormalities. The hospital has set up a helpline and is trebling the number of clinics to cope with the expected demand.

The independent review also found that 27 women with vaginal cancer received inconsistent treatment at St George's. They have all been contacted and had their treatment checked.

St George's Hospital

Mr Barker, a senior clinical medical officer at the bospital since 1988, has been responsible for the colposcopy service, which involves examining and treating women whose cervical smears indicate they may be at risk of developing cancer. The hospital screens over 27,000 women a year, of whom about 1,000 with moderate or severe abnormalities in their smear are referred for colposcopy. A senior clinical medical officer is ranked just below consultant level. Mr Barker, who has published books on gynaecological cancer and smear tests, carried out the same work at three private hospitals in the London area – the Portland Hospital for Women and Children, the London Bridge Hospital and Parkside hospital, Wimbledon. They are making their own arrangements for recalling affected women but the numbers are thought to be small.

Colposcopy involves a careful visual examinatioo of the cervix using a binocular microscope. Where changes to the cells are seen the doctor performs a loop excision – cutting away the affected tissue. If no abnormal changes are seen the doctor should take a biopsy – a sample of cells that can be checked in the pathology laboratory for signs of cancer.

Guidelines say that the loop excision should be deep enough to ensure a clear margin of healthy cells is removed beyond the affected tissue, but Mr Barker was making a shallower excision, which may have left some cancerous cells behind. At least nine out of teo women should have biopsies – allowing for some who are pregnant or fail to atteod the clinic – but checks showed that in some years Mr Barker performed biopsies on less than six out of ten. The 1,000 women being re-called are those who either had no biopsy performed or had a loop excisiou where abnormal cells may have been left behind.

Andrew Dillon, the chief executive, said the delay in completing the checks was due to the need to examine specimens taken from each woman for signs of cancer, which could only be dooe by a consultant. Mr Barker is estimated to have performed 10,000 colposcopies on 5,000 women in the past decade.

Guidelines on colposcopy were first issued by the health department in January 1996 but it is unclear what was accepted as good practice before that date. Mr Dillon said: "It has not been alleged that this was an incompeteot practitioner. What is being said is that he practised in a way that we are now being told is inappropriate. This is not an issue about the management of the service – as Kent and Canterbury was. It is a standards issue."

Mr Dillon said the questions raised by the St George's investigation were likely to highlight similar problems with the practice of colposcopy elsewhere. He added: "We are clear we are oot alone. It is important institutions have mechanisms for picking up these problems."

Women at risk, page 7

Blair tightens grip as Brown feels squeeze

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondeot

TONY BLAIR last night tightened his grip on the centre of his Government by sacking four ministers and promoting more Blairites to the Cabinet in moves that can curb the power of the Chancellor.

"It is a New Labour Government and it is a New Labour reshuffle," declared the Prime Minister's official spokesman.

The sackings left blood on the carpet and some ministers seething with reseotment. Ooe senior ministerial source claimed: "There's been a New Labour purge."

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The movers and shaken do the Downing Street shuffle, Pages 4 and 5
The Enforcer, the Rejected, the Disappointed and the Trailblazer, Pages 4 and 5

In spite of the long-running antagonism by the Chancellor against Peter Mandelson, Mr Blair promoted the Minister without Portfolio to the Cabinet. In a clear signal to some of Mr Brown's supporters, the Prime Minister's Official spokesman said it was time to end the "personality spats" which bad soured the first year in office.

"The Government is not Opposition. People have got to face up to the fact that being in Government requires extra responsibility and people working together as a team," he added.

Mr Blair rewarded the rising taleot, headed by Mr Mandelson, but went further than expected in punishing the failures by sacking four Cabinet ministers: Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, Lord Richard, the Leader of the House of Lords, Gavin Strang, the Transport minister, and David Clark, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He softened the blow for Ms Harman by saying there was no reason why sbe should not rejoin the frontbench after "a breathing space".

The Blairite nature of the resbuffle was reinforced by the promotion of Stephen Byers, the education minister, to Chief Secretary to the Treasury, with a hint that the next big resbuffle will bring more into the Cabinet, including Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, and Helen Liddell, the Treasury minister. Others promoted to the Cabinet were Baroness Jay, as Leader of the House of Lords, and Nick Brown, who was moved out of the key role as Chief Whip to become Agriculture Minister.

In a moment of high drama, Frank Field, the minister of state for social security, walked out of No 10 and announced his resignation to the television cameras after Mr Blair put Alistair Darling, the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in charge of the welfare reforms.

The reshuffle redefined the relationship betweeo Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, underlining the Prime Minister's determination to stamp his own authority over the Treasury, the Cabinet Office and Downing Street. Mr Brown succeeded in blocking Mr Mandelson's appointment as Cabinet "enforcer" – a role that eveo Mr Mandelson feared would create more enemies for himself.

But Mr Mandelson's promotion as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry could risk future conflict with the Chancellor over the direction of economic policy, if he has to contend with further damage to manufacturing caused by high interest rates.

Replacing Margaret Beckett, who was demoted to Leader of the House of Commons, Mr Mandelson will retain the responsibility for the Millennium Dome, but he is dropping the title of President of the Board of Trade to avoid being known as "President Pete".

Downing Street said Mr Mandelson would be "the guardian of business interests in Whitehall", implying it believes Mrs Beckett has alienated the support among business leaders carefully constructed by Labour before the election.

Downing Street denied that Mr Field's resignation meant the Government would drop its plans for cutting the cost of the state pension and disability, widows' and bousing benefit. He had asked for the top job at Social Security to give him the mandate to introduce his reforms, and resigned rather than accept a compromise.

Jack Cunningham, the former Agriculture Minister, was put in charge of Cabinet preseotation and coordination. Downing Street anxiously played down suggestions that he would be an "enforcer" for Mr Blair, but he will be an important ally for the Prime Minister across Whitehall.

Mr Clark's sacking raised doubts about the Government's commitment to a radical Freedom of Informatioo Act. He told The Independent it was ready if Mr Blair chose to include it in the Queen's Speech.

Peter Mandelson yesterday making his way to No 10 and his promotion to Secretary of State for Trade and Industry *Brian Harris*

...while Cook feels the heat over Sandline

By Fran Abrams
Political Correspoodent

MINISTERS deliberately played down details of the Sierra Leone arms embargo because they supported its exiled goverumeot, the official inquiry into the arms-to-Africa affair has concluded.

The result of the inquiry, which clears ministers of prior knowledge and says nobody should be disciplined, was one of several important government announcemeots made yesterday when public atteotioo was diverted by the Cabinet reshuffle. As well as releasing the report by Sir Thomas Legg, ministers also disclosed guidelines wbich were promised in the wake of the cash-for-access scandal. These allow ministers and officials to have cootact with lobbyists if they think it in the Government's interest. There were also poteotially conteotious announcements oo the tightening of rules on asylum-seekers and the sbelving of plans to lower the age of consent to 16 for gay men. In the Commons, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said officials and ministers bad been vindicated by Sir Thomas' report. He announced a series of reforms to the FO, including better staffing, better handling of intelligence reports and no contact with mercenaries except with permission.

Officials blamed, page 8

Cycle Jordan

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Cycle Jordan is an Adventure Sports promotion of NDCS Ltd

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SPORT: Manchester United have opened talks with Aston Villa regarding £16m Dwight Yorke — PAGE 27

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The crowded Tube journey could become a thing of the past for London commuters as more people are expected to turn to river transport in the capital. Page 9

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A police officer decorated for his part in the capture of Derek Bentley died racked with guilt, because he believed the teenager's execution for murdering a policeman was a miscarriage of justice. Page 11

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Papua wave death toll hits 2,000
Three tsunamis that ripped through Papua New Guinea's north-west coast 10 days ago killed at least 2,000 and the death toll is likely to rise further. Page 12

Bhutto in court over £2m 'bribe'
Benazir Bhutto, the former Pakistan prime minister, appeared in court on charges she received £2m in kickbacks on a contract for hundreds of tractors. Page 14

BUSINESS NEWS
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Warning kicks Stylo's shares
Stylo, the shoe retailer, issued a profits warning that the board said may affect the dividend and lead to a shake-up of the under-performing business. Page 17

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Sailor to make waves for Leeds
Wendell Sailor, the biggest name in Australian rugby league, is expected to sign for Leeds rugby union club today. Page 25

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Roger Black, the Olympic silver medallist, is pondering his future after he was left out of the British squad for the European Championship 400 metres. Page 26

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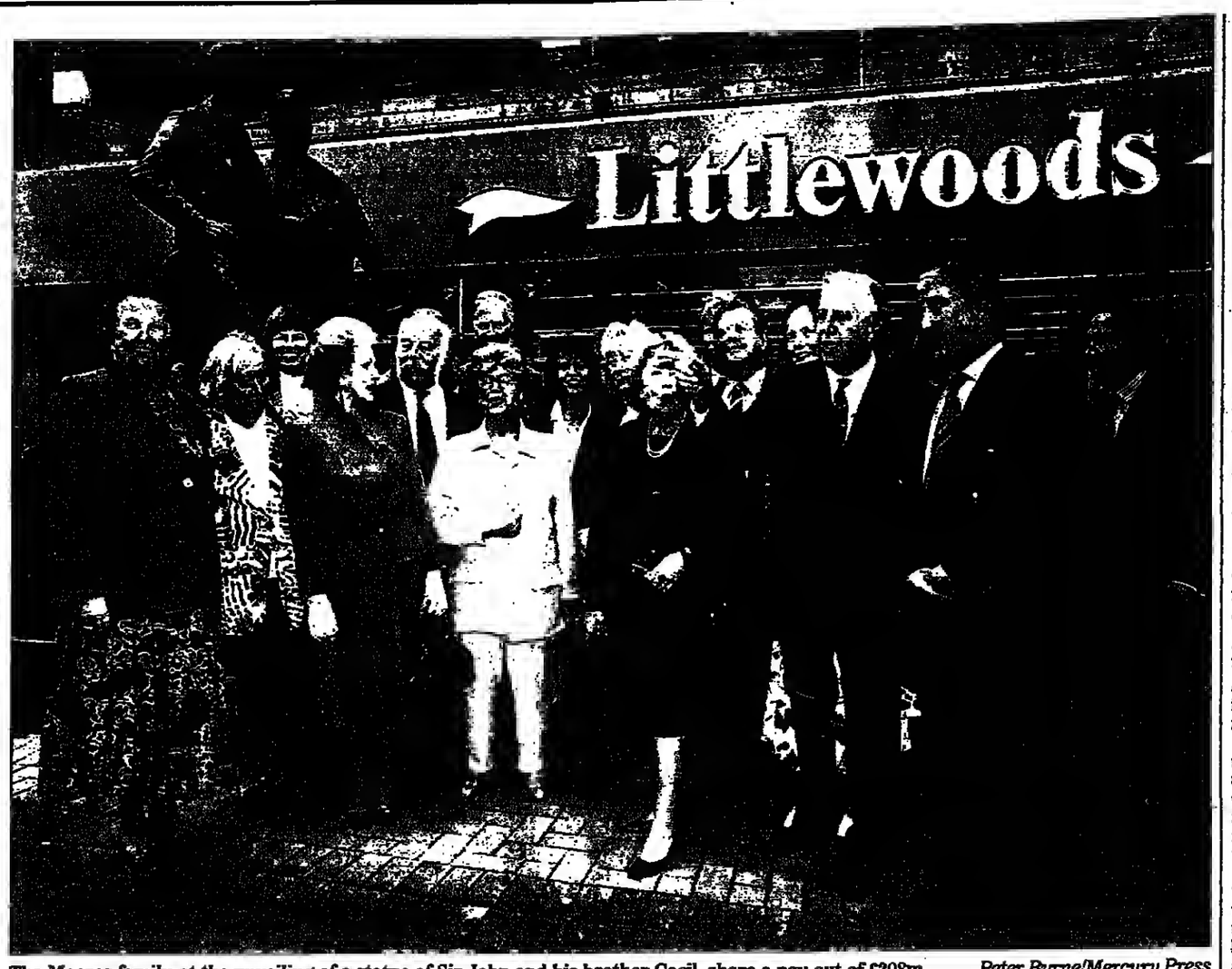
NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996



The Moores family, at the unveiling of a statue of Sir John and his brother Cecil, share a pay-out of £208m *Peter Byrne/Mercury Press*

Moores family wins £208m pools jackpot

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

THE FAMILY that owns the Littlewoods shopping and football pools empire has hit the jackpot with a pay-out averaging £7m per person, it emerged yesterday.

The 32 members of the Moores family, which owns 100 per cent of the Liverpool-based business, are to share a dividend payout of £208m.

The money came from the proceeds of the £192m sale of some of its stores to Marks & Spencer last year.

Although the Moores family, which also controls Liverpool football club, was anxious not to disclose the level of any individual bonanzas yesterday, insiders said no family member owns more than 6 per cent of the company. That means the highest pay-out will be £12.5m.

However, some groupings within the family do hold sizeable stakes. The largest holder is believed to be a charitable trust linked to Peter Moores, son of the late Sir John Moores who founded the company in 1932. It accounts for 12.5 per cent, which will net the trust £26m under the deal. Lady Grantchester, the matriarch of the family, who is in her mid-seventies, will also bank a tidy sum. Her family's holding is said to be about 11 per cent, yielding more than £21m.

Others to benefit will include David Moores, the chairman and major shareholder in Liverpool football club. Lord Grantchester, Lady Grantchester's son, is said to be interested in taking a stake in Everton football club and could use his gains to further that end.

Although not considered an extravagant family, mooey has brought certain privileges. Peter Moores likes opera and once paid for his favourite work to be staged at Glyndebourne. According to some reports one of the male Moores once saw a rare Porsche in a Paris showroom and bought it on the spot – for £600,000.

Although the family has always had great wealth, insiders say they remain down-to-earth and retain "the common touch".

Lady Grantchester may have attended Cheltenham Ladies' College and Newnham College, Oxford, but she likes to be called Betty and often travels around Liverpool in a mini-cab.

Other members of the family are major donors to charitable institutions, particularly in their native Merseyside: the one-time polytechnic is now Sir John Moores University.

Sir John himself had personal experience of the hard life – he started his career as a post office clerk before founding Littlewoods as a pools business in the depression days of the Thirties.

"The majority of them [the Moores] lead a very down-to-earth, commonplace life. In common with Sir John Moores, they believe in giving a lot back to the community," said one source close to the family.

The pay-outs mark a rapid reversal of fortune for the family, whose members were at each others' throats just three years ago when the then struggling Littlewoods business was the subject of two takeover bids. That followed a period of instability, which saw boardroom upheaval and a flurry of lawsuits that have only recently been settled.

Though the takeover approaches were eventually defeated by a sizeable majority, the offers of about £1bn for the business spilt the family.

The feud hit the headlines and made the normally secretive Moores the subject of national attention.

Some members wanted to take the money while others wanted to maintain ownership of the business.

Yesterday the company's chairman said the Moores family were behind the business and did not want to casb in either in the form of a sale or a stock market flotation. "The family have not raised the issue. A flotation is not on the agenda," he said.

The payments were made to the family in March but the details were disclosed for the first time yesterday when the company reported its annual profit figures in the City.

Business, page 16

Lottery bonanza to end for arts advisers

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

THE GOVERNMENT acted yesterday to stop commercial consultants cashing in on millions of pounds of lottery money earmarked for the arts.

Reacting to disclosures in *The Independent* that scores of consultants have grown rich on funds that should have gone to arts bodies, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport promised new measures so that "smaller [lottery] applicants don't feel they need to buy in expensive help simply to make an application".

In a statement, the department said it was working with the lottery distribution bodies on "measures to reduce the sometimes intimidating bureaucracy associated with lottery applications".

Millions of pounds given to the arts from the National Lottery have been paid to consultants. Scores of consultancies have been charging up to £700 a day for advice to artists, theatres and concert halls.

More than 250 arts companies have spent £27m on feasibility studies for lottery projects, much of the money going on consultancy fees for schemes that are increasingly unlikely to proceed as new legislation has drastically limited the amount of lottery cash that can be spent on new buildings.

But it defended some expenditure on consultants, saying: "Expert advice, especially on large capital projects, is often necessary to avoid money being wasted."

The Independent highlighted the case of the South Bank Centre in London where over £2m was spent in three years on feasibility studies before the project was scrapped.

The Arts Council, too, has promised a new approach to the lottery to halt the stampede of applications that take lottery cash and never come to fruition. The new strategy will co-ordinate lottery bids around the country so there will be fewer speculative feasibility studies undertaken.

Consultants defended their role in the process. Tim Baker of Market Research Solutions said: "We assess the level of interest in the way a proposal was presented to the local community. Fortunately for us, more and more organisations need this sort of information for their grant applications."

Virgin employee withdraws abortion claim

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE AND DAVID USBORNE

RICHARD BRANSON and Virgin Atlantic were claiming a pre-trial victory last night when they said a judge had dismissed two of three allegations they faced in a civil court action.

According to Virgin, Lorna Brissett-Romans, a company employee for 10 years, withdrew her claim that the airline had fired her because she refused to have an abortion. The airline also said that a judge dismissed claims that Mr Branson had fondled Ms Brissett-Romans on the dance floor at a company party.

However, a trial due to start today in the Manhattan Federal District Court in New York, will still hear an allegation that the reservations manager lost her job on racial grounds. Papers filed by Ms Brissett-Romans' lawyers also refer to a racist questionnaire the airline allegedly used in its US-based training operations.

Last night, Mr Bransoo said he was delighted the two allegations had heeo dropped. "These decisions clear the way for the case to be heard oo its merits and not on the basis of the repugnant and malicious claims made against the airline and me," he said.

He said the company would continue to defend the remaining allegation that Ms Brissett-Romans had been dismissed because she was black. Lawyers acting for Virgin Atlantic will claim that other staff were unhappy with her work. They will say that after she left, the company learnt that she had another full-time job.

However, Mr Branson did not rule out that a racist questionnaire had been used by the company.

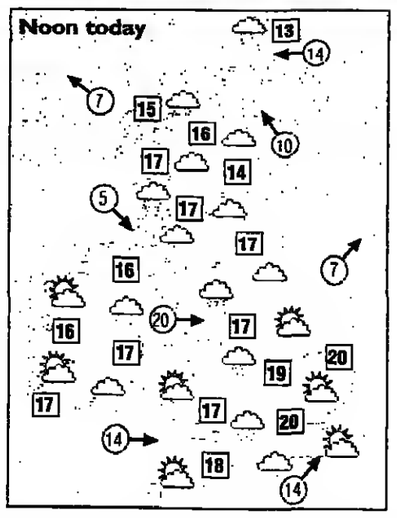
"If there was a questionnaire it was not known to senior members of staff," he said. The questionnaire is said to have included "joke" answers about how to deal with members of ethnic minorities.

Virgin said Judge Miriam Cederbaum had ruled in its favour last Friday in a private meeting with lawyers.

Neither the court or Ms Brissett-Romans' lawyers were available to confirm this last night.

Branson: Delighted

BRITAIN TODAY



OUTLOOK

West Wales, Northern Ireland and the West Country will start cloudy with spinkles of light rain, but it will slowly turn brighter during the afternoon. Western Scotland, east Wales, north-west England and the western Midlands will start mostly dry with sunny intervals and just the odd shower, but drizzly rain will spread from the south-west. The eastern half of Scotland and England will be dry and bright this morning, but it will cloud over with a growing risk of patchy light rain this afternoon.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Tomorrow will be very disturbed with heavy rain and blustery winds sweeping in from the south-west; although the rain will be more showery across Scotland with a little sunshine. Thursday will be cool and blustery with sunshine and showers, although northern Scotland may have longer spells of rain. Friday will be more settled in most places with fewer showers and more sunshine. Temperatures throughout the week will be near or a little below normal.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

Belfast	21.32	to	05.23
Birmingham	21.06	to	05.22
Bristol	21.05	to	05.29
Glasgow	21.32	to	05.15
London	20.55	to	05 19
Manchester	21.12	to	05 19
Newcastle	21 17	to	05.09

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	05.42	7 1	17:53	6.8
Liverpool	02·49	9.0	15:09	8.6
Avonmouth	11:06	12.2	23:16	12.1
Hull (Albert Dock)	10:01	8.4	22:30	8.0
Greenock	04:03	3.6	16:49	3.2
Dun Laoghaire	03:11	4.1	15:34	3.7

AIR QUALITY

Yesterday's readings

	NO_2	Pollen	O_3
London	Mod	Low	Gd
S England	Mod	Low	Gd
Wales	Gd	Low	Gd
C England	Gd	Low	Gd
N England	Gd	Low	Gd
Scotland	Gd	Low	Gd
N Ireland	Gd	Low	Gd

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	05.18
Sun sets:	20 55
Moon rises:	10.37
Moon sets	23 06
First Quarter	July 31st

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the map (right). Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

YESTERDAY

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Most recent available figure at noon local time.

KEY: C,cloudy; Cl,clear; F,fair; Fg,fog; Hz,haze; M,mist; R,rain; S,sunny; Sl,sleet; Sh,showers; Sn,snow; Th,thunder.

Aberdeen	C	17	63
Anglesey	S	17	63
Ayr	S	16	61
Belfast	R	16	61
Birmingham	Sh	17	63
Blackpool	C	16	61
Bournemouth	C	21	70
Brighton	C	17	63
Bristol	C	20	68
Cardiff	F	20	68
Carlisle	C	16	61
Dover	R	17	63
Dublin	C	16	61
Edinburgh	R	17	63
Exeter	F	19	66
Glasgow	Sh	17	63
Guernsey	F	17	63
Inverness	F	19	66
Ipswich	C	17	63
Isl's of Scilly	C	18	64
Jersey	C	18	64
Liverpool	Sh	17	63
London	C	18	64
Manchester	Sh	19	66
Newcastle	C	19	66
Oxford	C	20	68
Plymouth	F	20	68
Scarborough	C	16	61
Southampton	C	20	68
Southend	C	20	68
Stornoway	S	15	59
York	C	20	68

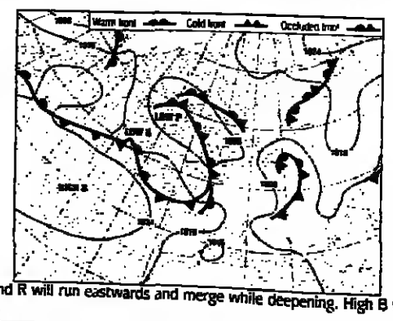
AIR QUALITY

Yesterday's readings

	NO_2	Pollen	O_3
London	Mod	–	Gd
S England	Mod	–	Gd
Wales	Gd	–	Gd
C England	Gd	–	Gd
N England	Gd	–	Gd
Scotland	Gd	–	Gd
N Ireland	Gd	–	Gd

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



Lows P and R will run eastwards and merge while deepening. High B will transfer north.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Akrotiri	S	30	86	Chicago	C	27	81	Lima	C	17	63
Alexandria	S	31	88	Christchurch	F	9	48	Lisbon	S	25	77
Algiers	S	31	88	Cologne	C	24	75	Locarno	Th	22	72
Alicante	F	31	88	Copenhagen	C	19	66	Los Angeles	F	23	73
Amsterdam	C	23	73	Corfu	S	35	95	Luxembourg	C	23	73
Anchorage	C	16	61	Dakar	F	31	88	Madrid	F	32	90
Athens	S	38	100	Darwin	S	30	86	Majorca	S	31	88
Auckland	C	16	61	Dhahran	S	41	106	Malaga	S	32	90
Bahrain	S	41	106	Faro	S	27	81	Malta	S	34	93
Bangkok	C	33	91	Florence	S	33	91	Manila	F	32	90
Barbados	F	30	86	Frankfurt	C	24	75	Mecca	C	40	104
Barcelona	C	27	81	Funchal	C	24	75	Melbourne	F	13	55
Beirut	C	29	84	Geneva	R	19	66	Mexico City	C	23	73
Belgrade	S	31	88	Gibraltar	S	32	90	Miami	C	32	90
Berlin	C	20	68	Harare	S	25	77	Milan	C	30	86
Bermuda	C	29	84	Helsinki	C	17	63	Mombasa	F	29	84
Biarritz	F	23	73	Hong Kong	F	33	91	Montreal	F	23	73
Bogota	C	16	61	Honolulu	F	31	88	Moscow	F	21	70
Boulogne	R	27	81	Islamabad	No			Munich	C	22	72
Bordeaux	F	24	75	Istanbul	S	31	88	Nairobi	C	23	73
Brisbane	S	22	72	Jakarta	R	27	81	Naples	S	32	90
Brussels	C	25	77	Jeddah	S	37	99	Nassau	F	32	90
Bucharest	S	29	84	Jerusalem	S	30	86	New Delhi	S	36	87
Budapest	F	29	84	Jo'burg	S	19	66	New Orleans	C	31	88
Buenos Aires	C	13	55	Karachi	C	30	86	New York	C	27	61
Cairo	S	32	90	Kathmandu	R	23	73	Nice	F	26	82
Calgary	S	26	79	Kiev	F	23	73	Nicosia	S	31	88
Cape Town	C	16	64	Kingston	C	34	93	Oslo	F	20	68
Caracas	C	31	88	Kuala Lumpur	S	32	90	Paris	R	18	64
Casablanca	S	26	79	Las Palmas	C	25	77	Peking	M	28	82
Perth	F	13	55								
Port Stanley	F	5	41								
Prague	C	21	70								
Reykjavik	C	13	55								
Rhodes	S	31	88								
Rio de Jan	C	25	77								
Riyadh	S	46	115								
Rome	S	30	86								
Salzburg	C	24	75								
San Fran	F	20	68								
Santiago	C	13	55								
Seoul	C	29	84								
Singapore	C	30	86								
Stockholm	F	21	70								
Strasbourg	R	21	70								
Sydney	R	15	59								
T'aipei	C	34	93								
Tel Aviv	S	32	90								
Tenerife	S	27	81								
Tokyo	C	30	86								
Toronto	F	24	75								
Tunis	S	40	104								
Valencia	C	29	84								
Vancouver	S	24	75								
Venice	S	29	84								
Vienna	S	30	86								
Warsaw	F	24	75								
Washington	C	26	79								
Wellington	C	11	52								
Zurich	R	18	64								

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THE PROMOTED AND THE DEMOTED

Lord Richard, 66
Old Job. Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Ivor Richard was ennobled in 1990 and became leader of the Lords last May. A barrister before coming into the Commons between 1964 and 1974. Was number two on Foreign Affairs, under Jim Callaghan - his successor, Baroness Jay's father.

David Clark, 58
Old Job. Chancellor of the Ouchy of Lancaster
Much respected by colleagues in the House, Mr Clarke is not known for his skills at the despatch box and has suffered as a result. Could prosper in a less high profile role in the furuve.

Alistair Darling, 45
New Job. Secretary of State for Social Security
Old Job. Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Prospects. The Scottish lawyer entered the House 11 years ago and has sat on the Fronr Bench since 1988. As Labour City Spokesman he won Blair's admiration. Mr Blair will find Mr Darling's sharp brain useful for seeking innovative ways to deal with welfare

Nick Brown, 48
New Job: Secretary of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Old Job: Government Chief Whip
Prospects: Nick Brown, has represented Newcastle upon Tyne East since 1983. A bachelor and strangely shy for a former chief whip although known to be an able behind-the-scenes fixer. He was considered too close to Gordon Brown, as Chief Whip. But agriculture, as BSE and angry farmers have shown can be a difficult and high profile brief.

Peter Mandelson, 44
New Job: Secretary of State for Trade and Industry £90,267 a year
Old Job: Minister without Portfolio.
Prospects: High profile job wih put him in direct opposition to Gordon Brown. but its demanding nature may reduce opportunities to plot. Mr Mandelson, will now have to deal with both sides of industry on issues like the minimum wage.

DEMOTIONS

Harriet Harman, 47
Old Job: Secretary of State for Social Security
Considered part of the Blair circle, the sacking will come as a blow to Ms Harman. Although heading back to the backbenches for the firsr time since1984, noises from No 10 suggest she is still valued and may return to the fold soon.

Ann Taylor, 51
New job: Chief Whip £90,267
Old job: Leader of the House of Commons
Prospects. Ms Taylor has moved to the Right recently, but is still regarded as Old Labour
Generally regarded as competent. Unlikely to move much further up the promotional ladder, but equally unlikely to face an embarrassing demotion.

Baroness Jay, 59
New Job: Leader of the Lords and Minister for Women
Old Job: Lords Spokeswoman on Health
Prospects: Jim [Lord] Callaghan's daughter, Lady Jay, was ennobled by Neil Kinnock in 1992 having run the National AIDS Trust and been a BBC journalist. Believed not to fully share Lord Richard's strong commitment ro Upper House reform, which may have been a factor in appointment. Highly regarded by Downing Street.

PROMOTIONS

Margaret Becket, 55
New job: Leader of the House of Commons £90,267
Old job: President of the Board of Trade
Prospects: Switched against her wishes, Mrs Beckett, has argued that she needed to complete unfinished work such as the national minimum wage and the "fairness at work" legislation . Considered Old Labour, but her star could rise again if Gordon Brown became Prime Minsrer. High profile likely as a spokesman for the Government along with Jack Cunningham.

Stephen Byers, 45
New Job: Chief Secretary to the Treasury _ £90,267 a year
Old Job: Education minister
Prospects: The appointment of Blairite Mr Byers, as Treasury number two will be seen as undermining the alternative power base of Gordon Brown. Mr Byers has few links with old Labour and will continue to rise under Blair's patronage.

Gavin Strang, 55
Old Job. Minister of Transport (in Cabinet), Department of the Environment and Transport
Prospects: One of the few Labour MPs who had ministerial experience in the last Labour Government, the uncharismatic Dr Strang, was widely tipped to be dropped. Unlikely to rise again from the backbenches.

Frank Field, 56
Old Job: Minisrer of State at the Department of Social Security
Since Mr Field, was regarded as the man who knew more about the welfare system than anyone else in Parliament, Cabinet Ministers included, he is likely to remain in the public eye as backbench pundit or take a role outside the House.

John Reid, 51
New Job: Minister for Transport
Old Job: Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
Prospects. John Reid, is a former adviser to Neil Kinnock. An MP since 1987 and a defence spokesman since 1990. Considered an effective operator, although with Old Labour tendencies.

Jack Cunningham, 58
Old Job: Secretary of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
New Job Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Prospects: Mr Cunningham, an MP for 28 year is known as a survivor. Has never hidden his ambition, saying in 1984: "There's no point in being in politics unless one is interested in power." The new job, described as Minister for the Today programme, will be his toughest test: success would make him eager for even higher office.

Blair turns away from the shadows

DONALD MACINTYRE

THIS IS the first Cabinet Tony Blair has chosen for himself. And almost every change he made yesterday bears the personal stamp of its relentlessly modernising, meritocratic author.

The conventional wisdom is that by the simple act of reshuffling the Government, Blair asserted his authority over his most brilliant but potentially troublesome baron, Gordon Brown. The conventional wisdom is not wrong, for all the adamant protests yesterday to the contrary by the Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell.

Blair fulfilled Brown's – and, as it happens, Peter Mandelson's – wishes by not giving Mandelson, who with Brown was Blair's fellow architect in the construction of New Labour, a job at the centre of power as the Prime Minister's enforcer. But the promotion of Mandelson to the DTI is certainly more spectacular than Brown wanted.

Second, the translation of Gordon Brown's close friend Nick Brown from the central job of Chief Whip to the relatively Siberian wastes of Agriculture is undeniably symbolic. Nick Brown gave his namesake a direct line to the heart of the Parliamentary Labour Party which will henceforth be denied him.

The reshuffle, with a reshaping of the machinery of government by an increasingly high-profile Cabinet Secretary, Sir Richard Wilson, undoubtedly serves to tighten the Prime Minister's grip on government. And that can hardly fail to be at the expense of some of the Treasury's pervasive influence – hugely powerful a figure though the Chancellor remains.

But while the conventional wisdom isn't wrong, it's also incomplete. Tony Blair showed yesterday that he can be brutal. The expulsion of Harriet Harman, one of both Blair and Brown's truest ideological allies – and a woman who achieved more than she was normally given credit for – was ruthless. So too was the sacking of one of the party's elder statesman, the worldly-wise Ivor Richard.

And the reshuffle is more interesting even than that. To take a random example, that very removal of Nick Brown, who is perfectly capable of making a success of Agriculture once he gets over the shock, is matched by the stunning step Blair has taken by appointing the trusted Ann Taylor to the job of being the first female Chief Whip.

At one stroke Blair has dismantled the grisly misogynist, male clubbiness of the Whips' Office that has existed under governments, Labour and Tory, since anyone can remember. There were also some imaginative appointments in the pipeline last night for the lower ministerial ranks; it would not be wholly surprising to find Tony Blair's old barrister colleague Lord Falconer turn up at the centre of power, perhaps as Minister without Portfolio.

But in any case, as important as the endlessly fascinating but sometimes highly tenuous distinctions between Brownites and Blairites, is the plain fact that while maintaining a balanced Cabinet that leaves Clare Short, Robin Cook, John Prescott, David Blunkett and Chris Smith in place, it is nevertheless not a Cabinet reshuffle that advances the left: each of the Cabinet promotees is either an ultra-moderniser like Stephen Byers, the new Chief Secretary to the Treasury, or a member of the traditional Labour right wing like Cunningham or Taylor, or both, like Mandelson.

And Margaret Jay, the first woman Leader of the Lords and a highly presentable minister, also has, as the daughter of James Callaghan, and the former daughter-in-law of the late Douglas Jay, an impeccable family pedigree on Labour's revisionist right.

Yet this may be almost as much coincidence as design. The net departure of two leftish members of the Cabinet, David Clark and Gavin Strang, did not result from an arithmetical calculation of left-right balance. They owed their places not to merit, but to the quaint convention that an incoming Labour Prime Minister must – in the main – pick his Cabinet from a Shadow Cabinet which is as much the product of backstairs vote fixing as of the abilities of its members.

It can't be stressed too often that this is the first Cabinet that Blair has been able to pick on his own. And his judgement about who is best able to do what job – including the refusal to make the much admired and now departed Frank Field social security secretary, appears to have counted for more than ideology.

For example there is nothing to choose, in modernising zeal, between Stephen Byers and Alan Milburn. Moreover Milburn has been assured he is fully on course for promotion and that Frank Dobson was especially keen to keep him at his side at Health this time round. It's also true, however, that Byers, who will leave a big gap in David Blunkett's education department, probably just has the edge in intellect and grasp of what Blair is pleased to call the big picture about the modernisation of Britain.

More significantly still, Blair certainly considered bringing the able but distinctly left-wing Chris Mullin and may well do so in the future; he was advised that Mullin is at present too good a Home Affairs Select committee chairman to make it worthwhile. Nor did Blair shrink from taking away the chairmanship of the Cabinet Committee on future legislation from his old friend and mentor Lord Irvine and giving it to the left-of-centre Margaret Beckett to make her translation from the DTI to the Presidency of the Council more palatable.

For it is not, in the end, ideological division that most threatens to divide and sap the purpose of this government. It is the personal, and occasionally poisonous, rivalry between some of its most prominent figures, a rivalry that has virtually nothing to do what used to be called "the ishoous".

The relationship between Mandelson and Brown will now matter as it has never mattered before – and it will have to be much closer than some of those around the Chancellor like to imply it could ever be.

Once, before John Smith's death in 1994, they were friends. And the cordial early morning conversation they had early yesterday, not to mention Brown's warm and gracious congratulations on Mandelson's promotion, suggests at last that they could be once again. But there is a long way to go. What is clear is that the stakes are now much higher than they have been; whether on interest rates, or competitiveness or productivity, you cannot have the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry disagreeing and hope to get away with presenting a united front.

Mandelson has got what he wants – a make-or-break chance to run his own department. As Blair told him yesterday, advising him to keep a low profile until he has mastered his daunting brief, if he does it well he will prosper mightily. But every petty dispute, every slight, real or imagined will threaten to shatter the Government's effectiveness.

There was a lot of talk yesterday about a more formal, more structured approach to government, from now on. That will help, as will a reshuffle in which Blair has shown real steel.

Reshuffles are the one really big card a Prime Minister has to play in the endless struggle to enforce his will over the rest of government. Blair has taken his opportunity with both hands. Now it is up to those around him to make it work.

The day I got the sack – an ex-Cabinet Minister writes

DAVID CLARK

Who was dismissed yesterday as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

I WASN'T surprised to be summoned by the Prime Minister. He just said he was delighted by all the work that I had done, but he wanted to make changes and that meant some people had to go.

There was communication on Sunday night to ask people to be on stand-by this morning. I was at home because I had a 9am dental appointment in my constituency.

He spoke to me on the phone for the simple reason that I could not get to London. He wanted to see me in London. It was I who suggested that he should speak to me on the phone. There is no criticism of him whatever.

He said he wanted to make progress very quickly. He was very keen we met as soon as I got to London, which I did, but he just wanted my "disposition"; he wanted me moved out of the Cabinet basically.

I saw him in his room. It was fixed up immediately after our phone call. He just wanted to see me face to face and express his thanks. I don't feel hard done by. I spent 15 months in a Labour Cabinet.

There were times in the past 20 years when I thought there would not be a Labour Cabinet again. There have been only about 100 Labour Cabinet ministers in all its history so it's great to have been one of that elite.

I feel confident in my mind that I have left everything in good shape. We have a radical Freedom of Information Act. We haven't made any real concessions since the White Paper. It's there. It can be considered for the Queen's Speech. We have also modernised the machinery of government. Electronic Cabinet is now possible. We have drafted a White Paper on better government. It was held up because we were awaiting the Wilson review of Better Government, but that is all ready to go.

One of the last letters I picked up was to answer a question saying that we are going to be able to answer parliamentary questions electronically as well as in written form. That is probably the last thing I did this morning.

There was very little said in our meeting. He was basically remarking on how long my experience on the front bench had been – that I had had 20 years on the front bench – and how many new people I had worked with, and he wanted to make use of that. I thought it was the proper way of doing it. I didn't find it painful at all. I am disappointed; I am sorry not to be in the Cabinet, but if you go into politics, it's a rough old game. All I know is that my conscience is clear. I have left the position in a far better state than I found it 15 months ago.

I know there has been criticism of the Prime Minister but I found he did it absolutely correctly, with humour and consideration. I would not have asked for any other way of doing it.

It was very much a case of the King is desd, long live the King. I went back to my office and I had cleared it out already before the weekend. I spoke to the staff and said goodbye. I said I would be moving out and Jack would be moving in, and I wished Jack well, and I will give him any help I can."

David Clark was speaking to Colin Brown

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(b) Your tea-leaves
(c) Madame Zara's tarot cards
(d) Your Virgin *One* bank statement

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And the next please... the movers and

Peter Mandelson
'I am absolutely determined to do everything I can for business'

Jack Cunningham
'It's a job... to ensure the programme is running right across Whitehall'

Harriet Harman
'I'm very proud to have helped modernise the Labour Party over the last 15 years'

Margaret Beckett
Mr Blair told her he saw here as someone respected on both sides of the House

Alistair Darling
Mr Blair told him the next six months would be key to the process of welfare reform

Advertisement

How to make the Internet mobile in ten minutes...

Being on-line is as important a part of day-to-day communications as having access to a telephone or fax machine. A mobile phone is now accepted as a standard tool for business, anyone who travels without one is seen as being in the Dark Ages. You take one and stay in touch. There is no reason why you should not be similarly enlightened with mobile data. Access to your e-mail, office network and fax wherever you can use your mobile phone.

What is mobile data?

Mobile data combines two distinct technologies, computing and cellular communications, providing the mobile work-force with a set of powerful tools enabling them to work away from their office. Digital mobile phones communicate in 1s and 0s just as computers do, therefore the mobile phone network can be used as an alternative to the fixed line networks to provide communications between computers.

Have you ever needed to be in two places at one time?

When you need to work together with a group of colleagues it is not always possible to get them together in the same place at the same time. With mobile data this doesn't matter. You can e-mail documents, including charts, diagrams and photographs, to as many of your colleagues as you like. They can pick up files from their offices, the back of a taxi, hotel or even a train and bounce ideas around the group – or to other colleagues for further discussion. As sales figures change and currencies fluctuate the raw data can easily be distributed and updated. People can add comments to each other's work and reach a collective decision in no time at all. Improving group communications means improving time management.

Have you ever wanted to know about your rival's latest product the instant it is announced?

Make sure you are ready to log onto the World Wide Web to pick up the details when your rivals announce their latest products. With mobile data you can do this wherever you are. The mobile phone freed you from having to stay in the office for an important call, mobile data will free you from being tied to your office PC. You can make sure that you are as well informed as your customers and suppliers by logging on from anywhere in the world and reading the information. Ericsson's new SH888 makes accessing the Internet on the move a practical proposition.

Have you ever tried to use a computer and modem in a hotel room and given up?

If you are a frequent traveller accessing data, you may have found it less straightforward than it should be. You need all the right connectors. To plug a computer into a standard telephone socket means that you need the right lead. Different countries have a bizarre and incompatible range of sockets. With the SH888 you don't need to worry about sockets and cables because it has an in-built PC card and communicates with your computer directly by infra-red using the same technology as a TV remote control. For international calls a mobile phone can also be substantially cheaper than paying hotel rates.

The new SH888.

Why is the SH888 the best phone for mobile data?

To transfer data, PCs require a modem. Before the Ericsson SH888, a portable PC modem was contained in a PC card, which slotted inside your computer. The in-built PC card and infra-red technology in the SH888 has a number of benefits, besides removing the need to carry the extra kit and the fact that it's cheaper to buy the SH888 than a mobile phone with separate cable and card. Traditionally PC cards rapidly drain a computer's battery, especially PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant) which use normal Alkaline batteries. Because the modem is built into the phone, the power isn't drawn from the PC. As the phone need only be used on infra-red when you transfer data, the drain on the battery is nominal too. And because it supports the IrDA protocol it is compatible with the widest range of PCs, laptops and PDAs (operating Windows CE 2.0). It's even compatible with the Psion 5 and the Palm III.

So how do I use the SH888 to connect to the Internet?

Connecting to the Internet with the SH888 is extremely simple, but it must be noted that you cannot just buy the hardware, switch it on and expect to browse the web. Firstly you have to subscribe to an Internet service provider, either privately or through your company and then each time follow these simple steps. Activate your PC or PDA's infra-red port, select "Activate IR port" on the SH888's menu. Place the phone next to the computer, ensuring the infra-red ports are facing each other. Then either log into your office network or dial into your Internet service provider. Click onto your Internet icon and enter your desired address. For faster downloading you can opt to turn the images off.

And how do I use the SH888 for e-mail?

Sending and receiving e-mail is as simple as connecting to the Internet and follows much the same pattern – so again, you must have an e-mail account with a service provider either privately or through your office. Switch on your PC and phone, line up the infra-red ports and to send or receive e-mail, dial into your office or service provider. Then click on the e-mail or the in-box icons. You need only be on-line to transmit and receive e-mails, so you can read and write them at your leisure without tying up your phone line, keeping your costs down as well as your line free for other business.

The SH888. The best phone from the best manufacturer.

Introducing the SH888 – Ericsson's most technologically advanced phone. As well as an in-built PC card and infra-red communications port, the SH888 boasts the kind of features that you would expect from the Manufacturer of the Year, as voted by the telecoms trade.
The slim battery gives you up to 120 hours standby and 400 minutes talktime on the GSM 900 network, so you may as well leave your charger at home with the cables. And because the SH888 is one of the first dual band phones available, it is the ideal companion on overseas trips. The ability to use both GSM 900 and 1800 MHz networks gives you the widest possible range of roaming partners, making it easier to get a line in remote or congested areas.
The SH888's already superior sound design supports EFR (Enhanced Full Rate speech coding) providing speech and reception quality you'd expect from a land line phone. Sleek, black and futuristic with a three line display, it looks as good as it sounds.
On its own it's impressive. With a computer it's amazing. The Ericsson SH888.

...or 10 seconds.

All you need to do to use the SH888 for Mobile Data. Configure your PC or PDA to use its infra-red port.

Select "Activate IR port" on the SH888 menu.

Put the phone next to the computer with the infra-red ports facing each other and log on using your standard PC software.

Make yourself heard.

For further information please call 0990 237237
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THE 'ENFORCER'

Cunningham, Minister of Presentation

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

JACK CUNNINGHAM yesterday was made the Cabinet coordinator but Downing Street played down suggestions that he was being made Tony Blair's "enforcer".

Weekend briefings suggested that Mr Cunningham would be expected to "enforce" policy on Cabinet colleagues but that was dismissed by Downing Street two hours after he had left Number Ten, having accepted the role.

With Margaret Beckett, who was yesterday moved to become the Leader of the House, he will be the minister in charge of presenting the Government's case on television and radio, such as the BBC current affairs flagship programmes, *Today* and *Newsnight*.

"Enforcer makes easy headlines but it misunderstands and misinterprets the job. It's a job that will deal with the business managers and others to ensure the Prime Minister's objectives and the Government's programme is running right across Whitehall," said the Prime Minister's official spokesman.

Mr Cunningham takes over the same title as the ill-fated David Clark, as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Minister for the Cabinet Office, who found to his cost it was a job with too little Cabinet clout to defend his position.

During his year at the Agriculture Department, Mr Cunningham, who has a Phd in Chemistry from Durham University, and uses the prefix 'Dr', was branded "Dr No" – for banning beef on the bone, and proposing the ban on mega doses of Vitamin B6.

The former Agriculture Minister was clearly delighted to be leaving the angst of his old job behind him, beaming with a broad smile as he left Number Ten Downing Street; no more agriculture councils, no more furious farmers, no more problems over beef to contend with.

Mr Blair chose Mr Cunningham for the new job, after Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and other senior ministers objected to Peter Mandelson being made the Cabinet 'enforcer'. One minister said: "Jack will be superb in the job. He is good at keeping his eye on the big picture. It's not about pulling strings and getting involved in the detail. That is what Peter would have done, and that's one reason why people didn't want him in that role."

Mr Cunningham, 59 next week, is tailor-made for a presentational role - a former aide to Jim Callaghan as Labour Prime Minister, the Prime Minister is said to regard him as a 'grown up' politician, who has the experience to handle the Government's publicity machinery.

Mr Cunningham was on the right wing "Manifesto" slate for the Shadow Cabinet during the Labour Party's wilderness years. But has found Blairism a congenial home, and has effortlessly moved up through the ranks, as a dependable, loyal and effective minister.

Mr Cunningham also is a natty dresser, and in his sleek suits, he fronted for Labour at the last general election campaign. He will be a regular, and polished performer on talk shows. His constituency is in Copeland, Cumbria, covering the workers at the Sellafield plant, but the faint hint of a Geordie accent betrays his political roots in the North East.

THE REJECTED

Exit one of Tony's 'beautiful people'

BY DAISY SAMPSON

HARRIET HARMAN, the sacked Social Security Secretary, announced after her dismissal yesterday that she would continue to support the Government.

She emerged from the Department's headquarters in Whitehall holding a spray of lilies and told reporters: "I'm very proud to have helped modernise the Labour Party over the last 15 years. I am going to fully support the Government and I have nothing to add."

At their meeting earlier in the day at the Commons, Mr Blair told Ms Harman that she had done a good job in difficult circumstances but he felt she needed breathing space from front-line politics. He stressed that there was no reason why she should not have a role in government in the future.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said that, when Ms Harman was told there was no room around the Cabinet table for her, she declined any other posts. Ms Harman was quickly surrounded by friends and colleagues and sounded positively upbeat as she faced her new life on the backbenches.

However, as the daughter of a wealthy Conservative Harley Street physician Ms Harman has often been the cause of resentment among her Older Labour colleagues.

Viewed as one of "Tony's beautiful people" she ran into serious trouble in 1996 when the press discovered that she was sending her son Joe to a grammar school. Her decision was so unpopular amongst some of her Labour colleagues it even sparked the protest resignation of Labour Party's education committee chairman, Gerry Steinberg. Many viewed Tony Blair's decision at the time to back her as a mistake.

Her performance as Secretary of State for Social Security was viewed as poor and she was not a confident speaker at the despatch box.

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shaken do the Downing Street shuffle

Frank Field
'I believe I can support the Prime Minister more effectively from the backbenches'

Stephen Byers
Mr Blair gave him the job of seeing through structure created by spending review

Nick Brown
Mr Blair's man with 'proven ability and skill' to replace Jack Cunningham

Ann Taylor
The Prime Minister admires her in-depth knowledge of the House of Commons

Baroness Jay
Mr Blair told her she would play a leading role in reforming the Lords

THE DISAPPOINTED

No top job – so Field resigns

BY COLIN BROWN

DOWNING STREET yesterday denied that Tony Blair's attempts to reform the welfare state had been declared a failure after his reformer-in-chief, Frank Field, quit the Government.

He had asked Mr Blair to promote him from minister of state to secretary of state for social security to give him the authority to carry out his mandate for cutting the cost of the welfare state with a radical shift to private-pensions schemes.

When Mr Blair refused, he walked out, and, with an openness which characterised his short term on the front bench, "did a Heseltine" by announcing his departure to the television cameras as he left Number Ten.

"I have decided to resign from the Government. Welfare reform is the central issue for this government. I believe I can support the Prime Minister best on the backbenches to achieve that objective, rather than the positions discussed with me. That is all I have to say," he said.

The first task for Jack Cunningham on being appointed Mr Blair's ministerial spin-doctor was to deny on BBC radio that Mr Field's resignation signalled the Government had gone cold on plans for radical welfare state reform. That was reinforced by the Prime Minister's official spokesman at Number Ten, who said the Government would bring forward plans for reform of state pensions, disability and industrial injuries benefits, widows' benefits and housing benefit.

Mr Field was plucked off the backbenches by Mr Blair to "think the unthinkable" when he was appointed to take charge of welfare reforms after the election. He quickly became engaged in a turf war with Harriet Harman, then Social Security Secretary, and relations soured as he made clear his disenchantment with her.

Ms Harman was seen as one of Gordon Brown's allies, and wary of radical reform. As Mr Field was Mr Blair's personal appointment, their battle was interpreted as a surrogate struggle between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor. Last night it appeared to have ended in a draw, with both their pawns off the board.

Mr Field had grown frustrated with being prevented from bringing forward his most radical ideas for the state pension, by introducing compulsory second pensions. Mr Brown was reluctant to endorse a plan that could be portrayed as tax increases. The Chancellor took control of the pensions review and forced Mr Field to postpone the green paper on pensions reform until autumn, long after the expected reshuffle.

Appointing Mr Field, a maverick, was a high-risk tactic for Mr Blair. His departure will have critics saying "I told you so". But his remarks suggest he intends to badger Mr Brown from the backbenches for the reforms he was unable to deliver in government.

Mr Brown's lieutenant at the Treasury, Alistair Darling, has been put in charge of cutting the cost of the welfare state. He proved a hard-headed negotiator over the Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review, but the success of the Ministry of Defence in fighting off deeper cuts suggests he is unlikely to be as radical as Mr Field would like.

THE TRAILBLAZER

The first woman Chief Whip

BY BARRIE CLEMENT

ANN TAYLOR, Labour MP since 1974, has been nudged up the government hierarchy – from Leader of the House of Commons to Chief Whip.

Mrs Taylor is seen as efficient rather than as fully "on side" by the Prime Minister. Her slight move rightwards in recent years has not qualified her as New Labour. In Opposition, Mrs Taylor was Education Spokeswoman, but moved to a "non political" post as Shadow Leader of the House.

Her views on education did not fully accord with those of Mr Blair. She said once that if given a piece of paper and asked to write down which job she wanted, she would have written one word: "Education".

She is regarded as competent, yet seems to lack the star quality which would qualify her for a senior Cabinet job.

Some of her critics argue that she has failed to push through her plans to make the timing of Commons business more "family friendly". Nevertheless the post of Chief Whip has been awarded Cabinet status with her appointment.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister said she was someone Mr Blair knew well and liked. She was fully familiar with the mechanisms of Parliament and the Parliamentary Labour Party, said the spokesman. She was also "tough and popular".

First elected 14 years ago as an MP for Bolton West, she missed one parliament before returning as member for Dewsbury in 1987. She was an assistant whip when Labour was last in government and has since been on Labour's front bench in a variety of posts.

Mrs Taylor said politics had been the most important thing in her life since the age of 13 or 14. However, her ambition was limited to becoming a party agent. "This ... was more to do with class than with being a girl," Mrs Taylor said. She grew up on a council estate.

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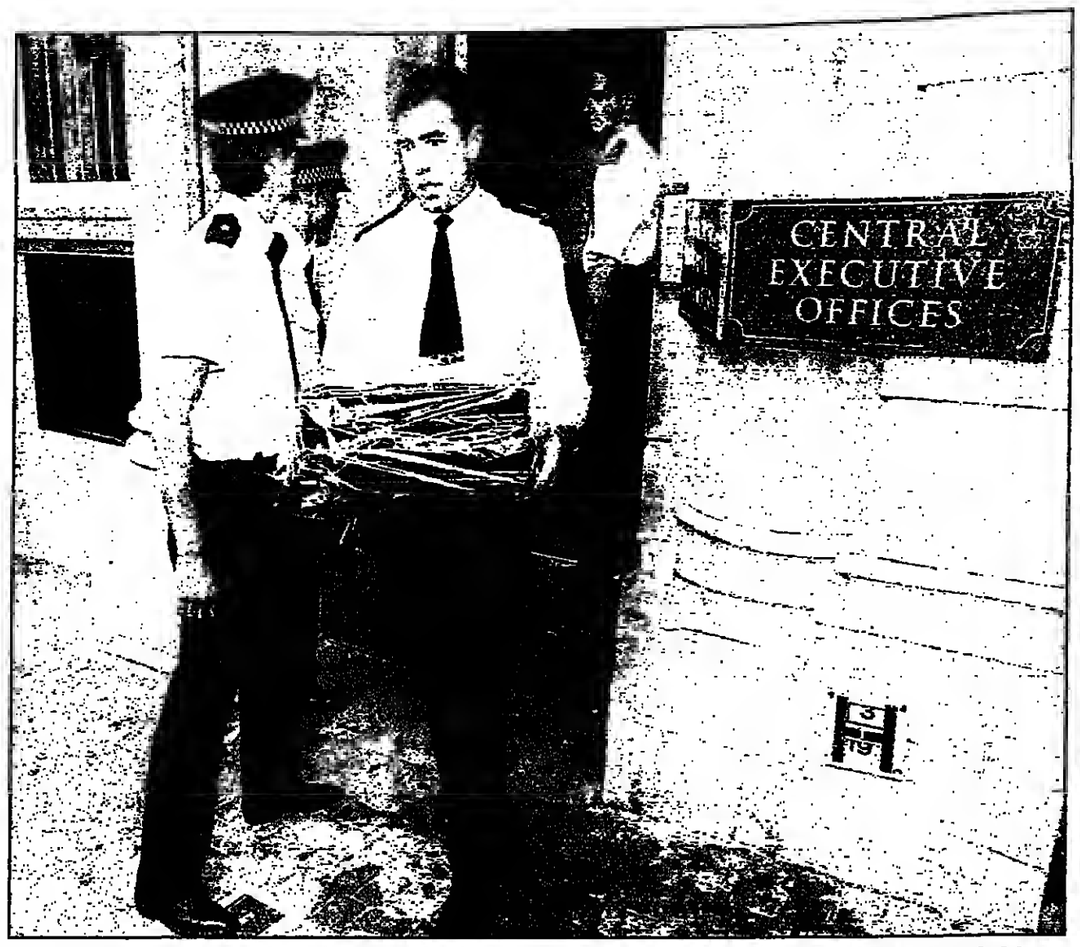
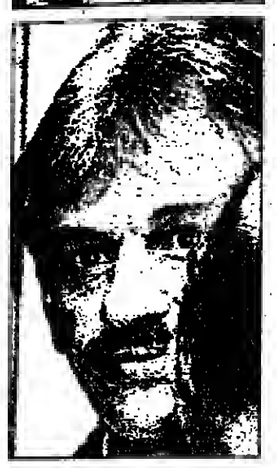
THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 28 July 1998

Conmen are found guilty of £7m fraud





Police retrieve documents from the former bank in Torquay. Right: conmen Saia, top, and Tuegel are led from court Aper

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A SYNDICATE of international fraudsters set up base on the English riviera to con naive and vulnerable businessmen and investors out of almost £7m.

The men used Torquay's quiet respectability to conceal a sham banking operation through which they collected advance fees on securities for loans. Many business, most based overseas, crashed after losing out on the money they were promised. One, unnamed businessman lost £9.3m as a result of the fraud.

Yesterday the full extent of the gang's deceit was revealed after two of the fraudsters were found guilty of conspiracy to defraud after a trial lasting nearly six months and costing £1.5m. The jury had deliberated for five days.

Peter Tuegel, 52, from Torquay, Devon, and Sebastiano Saia, 51, from London, will be sentenced later this year with ringleader Gerhard Martens, 40, also from Torquay. Martens had pleaded guilty earlier in the trial, heving changed his original plea.

The court heard that the gang picked their victims with cunning and precision – advertising in foreign newspapers such as the German Die Welt – and often attracting overseas lawyers and businessmen. Their web spread to 22 countries including the US, Canada, South Africa and the Caribbean island of St Maartens.

The gang, operating out of an old TSB bank premises fronted with a legitimate bureau de change, encouraged their clients to mortgage their businesses to them to cover loan securities. Plushly-furnished office suites, colourful letterheads and bogus bank certificates gave the appearance of legitimacy but the loans they promised never materialised.

Bristol Crown Court heard that Saia specialised in international currency transactions, tricking customers into putting their money into accounts with Martens' bank. He pledged to release funds to them in alternative currencies – but once deposits were made, he and Martens made excuses about why the transactions could not be completed and refused to repay the money.

The bankruptcy process, the complexity of international banking, and clients' location in another country all served to help keep the scheme going, the court heard.

Father and son Heinz and Eric Kraushaar, from Ontario, Canada, were persuaded to part with £625,000 for a promised loan of £625m. They mortgaged businesses to cover the loan – which never materialised – and finally lost a total of about £8.75m.

Another customer, a former bank worker from Munich, parted with £85,000 when he visited Torquay. Within weeks be made separate return journeys with two friends who parted with up to £200,000.

After the case, Stepben Myers, case officer with the Special Fraud Squad which began its investigation in July 1995, said: "They were a band of professional criminals who deliberately set out to defraud people. They are skilled liars but clearly not skillful enough to dupe a British jury, although they attempted to do so. "They set up in business in Torquay to avoid the prying eyes of City regulators and of police."

Detective Chief Insp Steven Harrison of Devon and Cornwall police said his officers bad been investigating the gang for three years.

His officers raided the gang's office in the centre of Torquay in September 1995, having originally been tipped off by a German woman who had lost £450,000 in advance fees for a supposed loan of £388m. Within days the SFO had court orders freezing Martens' assets worldwide. About a million documents – most written in German – were seized, of which 12,000 were to become exhibits in the trial.

A computer was used to present much of the evidence. A team of German interpreters was drafted in, and investigators travelled to 14 different countries during the investigation.

"We were dealing with a highly professional syndicate of international criminals. When Martens was first interviewed, be said that no investigating team was competent enough to understand his scheme," said Chief Insp Harrison. The court heard that the gang's scbeme had brought it more than £6.7m. Around £5.39m had been traced. Around £130,000 in foreign currency was found in a sboe-box at Martens' bome. Steps were being taken to recover the £750,000 still unaccounted for.

The court beard that Martens' activities had previously attracted the attention of the Bank of England which learned of his advertisements in overseas newspapers. The bank wrote to him but Martens assured bank officials that his companies were not carrying banking facilities.

The gang will be sentenced in October.

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Stop obsession with results, say teachers

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

EDUCATION FOR young children is fast becoming "battery farming", which damages their chances later in life, teachers said yesterday.

Schools should concentrate on developing the self-esteem and language of five and six-year-olds and delay teaching the three Rs, the Professional Association of Teachers said.

Geraldine Everett, a member of the union's council, attacked the Government for imposing a regime of targets and testing on primary-school children.

She said children "will experience intensive battery farming in order to produce, at specified chronological ages, dozens of scores from baseline to graduation, if not from conception to cremation, irrespective of their biological, mental or social developmental differences.

"Does this really enable each of our children to develop fully across all the intelligences? Do they emerge from their school coops confident, baving realised their potential? I fear not. Education is surely about more than achieving results.

"Yet this government is not concentrating on education, education, education, but on the three Rs – results, results, results."

She was speaking at the 40,000-strong union's annual conference in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. The PAT is the smallest and most moderate of the teaching unions, best known for its no-strike stance.

Its call echoes comments earlier this year by Margaret Hodge, chairman of the Commons Education Select Committee, who said international evidence sbowed that starting formal schooling too early could lead to problems later in children's school careers.

Last month the Liberal Democrats proposed delaying the start of formal education until the age of six.

A policy document proposed a new foundation curriculum for children over three, to prepare tbem to start formal lessons. From September all five-year-olds will be tested in elements of numeracy and literacy as part of a programme of "baseline assessments" in all primary schools.

Hodge: children shouldn't start school too soon

Don Foster, education spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, told the conference: "Starting a child's education in an overcrowded reception class with an inappropriate curriculum taught by an inappropriately qualified member of staff cannot ensure that education is high-quality."

■ New guidelines outlining bow teachers can use force to restrain unruly pupils were welcomed by union leaders yesterday.

Teachers can push, pull or hold pupils if necessary, regulations sent to all schools yesterday made clear.

The government circular protects classroom staff from prosecution for assault if they break up fights or restrain violent youngsters at school.

But the circular warned teachers that any use of force must be "reasonable". Acceptable force includes blocking a child's path, bolding, pushing, pulling and leading a pupil by the arm.

"More restrictive holds," are acceptable only in extreme circumstances. Teachers must try and persuade pupils to behave before intervening physically according to the guidelines.

Holding children by the neck or collar, touching or slapping them, are all banned, along with tripping or holding by the ear.

Air crash inquiries

AIR ACCIDENT investigators are looking into a series crashes over the past 48 hours which left seven people dead.

Two people were missing last night after a flying boat crash-landed in the sea during a VIP outing in the Solent.

A glider race saw one pilot killed after his aircraft was involved in a 3,000ft mid-air collision with another competitor. On Sunday, two paramedics were returning from a road accident when their Aero Spatial Squirrel bellcopter ploughed into power lines and plunged to the ground.

Another incident involving a tiny microlight plane claimed the life of a 66-year-old man and his son. Pilot Keith Blades and his father Frank died near the village of Little Carlton, south east of Louth.

IN BRIEF

Boy, 5, killed in suspected arson

POLICE WERE yesterday investigating a suspected arson attack on a house in which a five-year-old boy died and a four-month-old baby was badly hurt. The baby had stopped breathing when firefighters carried him from the Essex bouse soon after being called to the blaze at 4.15am yesterday. He was revived and taken to hospital along with two women, aged 26 and 36, and an 11-year-old girl.

Clowes on benefit fraud charges

FORMER FINANCIER and businessman Peter Clowes, 52, yesterday pleaded not guilty at Cbester Crown Court to three counts of fraud relating to job seekers allowance claims. His trial was set for October.

Truckers in go-slow over fuel tax

MOTORWAYS CAME to a halt yesterday after a convoy of 30 lorries crawled along roads in a protest against fuel duties. Truckers caused delays as they drove at 20mph through Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.

Pilot arrested in no-smoking row

A BRITISH pilot was questioned by Italian police after allegedly bolding passengers "hostage" on his Go aircraft when no one owned up to illegally smoking on board.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

How one cancer doctor's errors have put 1,000 women at risk

25th July, 1998

St George's Healthcare

St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust
St. George's Hospital,
Blackshaw Road, London SW17 0QT.
Telephone : 081-672 1255

Name

Hospital No

Dear Ms

We see from our records that you attended one of our colposcopy clinics, at St George's or the Bolingbroke Hospitals, for examination of your cervix after an abnormal smear test. This examination normally involves taking a sample (biopsy) of the cervix to find out whether treatment is necessary.

We have recently reviewed our colposcopy service and see that you did not have a biopsy when you attended the clinic. As a precaution, we would therefore like to invite you back for another colposcopic assessment. If you have been seen in another hospital's colposcopy clinic since your last appointment at St George's or the Bolingbroke Hospitals, you may not need to have a further assessment. If this is the case, please let us know on 0800 056 3061.

A letter (inset) was sent out yesterday recalling 1,000 women to St George's Hospital (above) over questionable cervical smear test results *Nicola Kurtz*

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

THE REVELATION of the apparent mistreatment of women who are at serious risk of cervical cancer by a senior doctor at St George's hospital in Tooting, south London, has delivered another blow to the beleaguered cervical screening service.

It is the sixth scandal in the past five years to have put patients at risk and undermined women's confidence in cervical screening. But, like the recent Bristol children's heart surgery case, it also raises disturbing questions about how failing doctors can be identified and stopped.

Graham Barker had run the colposcopy service at St George's since 1988, checking and treating women whose cervical smears showed moderate or severe abnormalities. Qualified in 1973, he was well-known in his field and had published books and papers on gynaecological cancer and a patients' guide called Your Smear Test.

In 1995, a new consultant gynaecologist, Desmond Barton, was appointed at St George's who disapproved of Mr Barker's technique. Mr Barton had worked in the US and brought a fresh approach to the practice of colposcopy but Mr Barker had, by then, been running the St George's service for eight years and resented the criticisms of the newcomer. During 1996, the two men had prolonged discussions but failed to agree on a common approach.

In October 1996, Mr Barker agreed, as a way of resolving the dispute, to stop doing the loop excisions.

Last year, Mr Barton began to see patients with more advanced cancer than expected. In the second half of 1997, he recorded 10 women who needed more radical surgery than would have been the case, he believed, had they been properly treated at the colposcopy stage. In the first two months of this year, he recorded a further nine cases.

On 3 March, St George's decided there was enough evidence to ask Mr Barker to stop his colposcopy work and sent the 19 cases for review by an independent panel of experts. In May, the panel reported that seven had been satisfactorily treated, four gave "cause for concern" and eight were "unsatisfactory".

One area of concern was over Mr Barker's technique of doing loop excisions. The panel said the excision should be deep enough to ensure a margin of healthy cells was removed, with the abnormal cells, to guarantee that no abnormal cells were left behind. Mr Barker preferred to make a shallower excision and use a heated probe to destroy any remaining malignant cells at the base of the excision, in a process known as "diathermy".

Two of the 19 women died. One received acceptable treatment, according to the panel, implying that nothing could have been done to save her. The second woman had a colposcopy in 1989, after an abnormal smear, and was treated by cold-coagulation – freezing of the affected cells. The treatment was considered appropriate at the time, but she missed two subsequent outpatient appointments and the hospital failed to ensure she was followed up. When she returned to the hospital in 1995, she already had cancer.

It is now more than two years since concerns about Mr Barker's practice were first raised and five months since he was suspended and the review of his patients' records began. To cope with the 1,000 women being recalled, the hospital is increasing the number of colposcopy clinics from five to 17, but it will be up to a further two months before all the women are seen.

St George's denies that it could have acted more quickly, saying that the issue began as a professional dispute between two senior doctors. No national guidelines for colposcopy were issued until January 1996 and the hospital says it acted "sensibly" at every stage to protect patients.

The incident will, nonetheless, renew concerns about standards in the NHS. The women involved will all have been anxious about their abnormal smear result and worried about whether the colposcopy treatment would deal with the pre-cancerous changes observed. Their confidence in the NHS will have been shattered.

They are victims of a failure to keep up with changing standards to provide the best level of care. Measures were announced by ministers last month to ensure the performance of doctors is monitored, including a Commission for Health Improvement, which will have the power to send hit squads into failing hospitals. Andrew Dillon, chief executive of St George's, said: "Our experience shows why some framework of self-regulation and policing of quality control needs to be applied. We are clear we are not alone."

WHERE CERVICAL TESTS HAVE GONE WRONG

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

■ **1993: Inverclyde Royal Hospital, Strathclyde.** 20,000 smears rechecked after a woman developed cervical cancer. Examination of earlier smears taken from the woman revealed abnormalities that should have been spotted.

■ **1993: Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, and East Sussex.** 800 women recalled for repeat smears after two GPs were found to be using an inappropriate technique for taking smears. One was using a gloved finger instead of the specially designed wooden spatula.

■ **1994: Blackpool.** 300 women called for repeat smears after being told their GP had used the wrong technique.

■ **1994: Merthyr Tydfil.** 18,000 smears rechecked at Prince Charles hospital after unusually low proportion of abnormal smears found.

■ **1996: Gorleston, Norfolk.** 9,000 smears rechecked at the James Paget hospital after screeners, who took slides home to examine, made a series of errors. One woman screener was found to have misread 357 of the 10,000 smears she examined over three years. Some of her mistakes were described as the equivalent of a footballer missing an open goal.

■ **1996: Kent and Canterbury hospital.** 90,000 smears rechecked after five women developed invasive cancer and over 300 found to be in need of urgent treatment. Described as the worst screening scandal, an inquiry found management failings and problems at every level from the screeners to the consultants.

■ **1997: Warwickshire.** 18,000 smears rechecked after low proportion of abnormal smears was detected. Monitoring disclosed 16 out of 500 smears had been misread.

Early warning can halt the spread of deadly disease

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

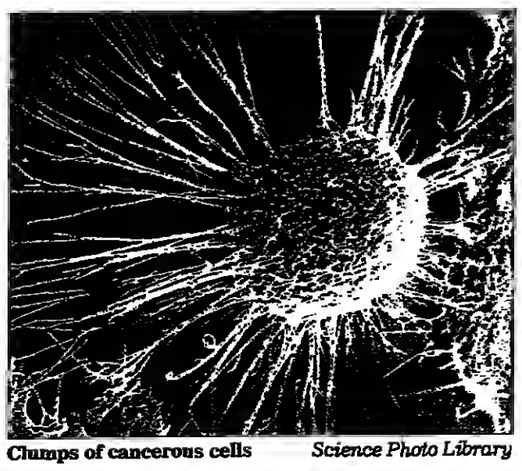
SCREENING FOR cervical cancer has been one of the success stories in cancer prevention and treatment, with thousands of women's lives being saved each year worldwide.

Scientists look for abnormalities in the cells of the cervix – the neck of the womb – which indicate a precancerous stage might develop into a potentially lethal cancer that invades the surrounding tissue.

Britain's national screening programme invites all women aged between 20 and 64 to have a cervical smear to check for these precancerous cells and identify those most at risk of developing full cancer.

During a smear, a wooden or plastic spatula is lightly wiped over the cervix to pick up a few cells, which can then be analysed under a microscope by scientists in a hospital cytology department.

About 85 per cent of women come forward and one in 12 smears is classified as abnormal, but doctors emphasise that it is still extremely rare for these abnormalities to be cancerous. Some are defined as borderline and the patients are asked to come back for another smear in six months, but moderate or severe cases require a more detailed analysis using an instrument called a colposcope, which can magnify the cervical tissue *in situ* for the doctor to examine directly.



Clumps of cancerous cells *Science Photo Library*

Doctors classify women into three groups by using colposcopy. The first are those who have fewer than a third of the surface cervical cells affected. This group may be left untreated to see if they return to normal after a few months.

Women who have up to two-thirds of their cells showing abnormalities will need to be treated to eliminate the defective cells. Colposcopy also allows doctors to treat the cells by surgically removing the abnormal cells with lasers or electrically heated loops, or by freezing the tissue surface.

National guidelines suggest that all women who require colposcopy should have a biopsy – a small sample of tissue removed for analysis. This usually means that at least 90 per cent of colposcopy patients are biopsied, because there will always be some women, such as those who are pregnant, who cannot.

A St George's Hospital spokeswoman said that in the case of Graham Barker, the doctor at the centre of the scare, far fewer women who came for a colposcopy were given biopsies, adding that it suggested some women at highest risk were not given the full investigation they should have had. "The difficulty is that we don't know if anything has been missed because he didn't do the biopsy," she said.

Philip Wilson, a consultant at St George's, emphasised that the alleged failings at the hospital should not dissuade people from coming forward, given that cervical cancer still kills about 1,500 women a year, most of whom did not have a test.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 28 July 1998

Daydream believers take time out from the daily grind

THE SKETCH

MICHAEL BROWN

ATTENTION WANDERED from the chamber of the House of Commons yesterday, during questions to Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Labour MPs' minds were elsewhere, dreaming of phone calls that might translate them from the drudgery of backbench sycophancy and the number 88 Clapham omnibus to the excitement of junior frontbench drudgery but with the perks of private secretary, red box and ministerial car.

By the time Mr Smith took his first question he already knew that he had been spared the Prime Minister's butcher's knife and would live to face another reshuffle. This seemed to transform him from his normal bookish reserve to a man possessed with a new sense of survival. Having been under the threat of the ministerial death sentence for several weeks his sense of relief was palpable.

When challenged about quango appointments by John Bercow (C, Buckingham) he snapped: "Appointments have to be made entirely on merit – something which doesn't apply to the Tory party."

Neither was Virginia Bottomley (C, SW Surrey) spared when she complained about the Government's treatment of the English Tourist Board. She was in obvious pain and explained she had just been to the dentist. Mr Smith was in no mood to sympathise: "Coming from a [Tory] government which cut funding for tourism, I forbore to say dentistry, that's a bit rich".

Peter Ainsworth, Tory spokesman for culture, media and sport, fared no better as he paid Mr Smith a back-handed compliment. He congratulated him for "hanging on; no one is more delighted than me". Mr Smith shot back: "Can we have some grown-up opposition?"

This was the curtain-raiser for the main appearance of the afternoon, the newly minted Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in the elegant shape of Peter Mandelson, who was due to answer questions on the Dome, for which he will retain responsibility.

Looking like the cat who has just had the cream with gallons more to come, Mr Mandelson was slightly taken aback by his first question from Gordon Prentice (Lab, Pendle), who did not even congratulate the new department head.

Mr Prentice demanded to know what use the minister makes of lobbying organisations to promote funding for the Dome. Mr Mandelson rejected suggestions that he used such companies, but was pressed by Mr Prentice: "I expected a more illuminating reply from a minister who casts such a long shadow." He accused Mr Mandelson of having off-the-record meetings with lobbyists. "What does he say privately, and will he invite me to attend? If not, why not?"

The Dome supremo was not amused; Mr Prentice need not wait by any phones.

Mr Ainsworth rose again, and, in the first public acknowledgement in the House of the great man's translation, congratulated Mr Mandelson. "He knows a great deal about trade; we look forward to seeing what he knows about industry," he said, mysteriously.

Robin Corbett (Lab, Birmingham, Erdington) offered the first genuine compliment. Originally, he wanted the Dome to be built in Birmingham, "but I visited Greenwich – it's very impressive and I wish it success".

Robert Syms (C, Poole) was worried about HFCs, and believed it was a shame they were being used at the Dome. I fathomed that these were something nasty to do with global warming. Mr Syms wanted the minister to "leave a note for his successor" about their use. He had not realised that Mr Mandelson, having had no portfolios, now had many.

MPs went on to discuss the Sandline affair, with the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, saying ministers were not at fault. The fall guy will be the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, but there will be a rap on the knuckles only. Mr Cook had to put up with grumps from Michael Howard, the opposition spokesman, but all attention was focused on the reshuffle.

Officials blamed by arms inquiry

SIERRA LEONE
BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

A CATALOGUE of official contacts with mercenaries who breached the Sierra Leone arms embargo was revealed by an official inquiry last night.

Sir Thomas Legg's 150-page report revealed that staff on the Foreign Office's Equatorial Africa Desk, defence advisers, the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone and even, at a later stage, the most senior official in Robin Cook's department, knew what was happening but failed to tell ministers.

Sandline escaped prosecution for selling military aid and arms to the exiled regime of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah after it emerged that officials knew about the contract. The United Nations had imposed an embargo on everyone connected with the country, including its exiled government, after a coup in 1997.

The report chronicled a series of contacts between High Commissioner Peter Penfold, Foreign Office officials and Sandline representatives stretching over several months.

It even revealed that when Mr Penfold was appointed in March 1997, he was sent to the King's Road office block where Sandline is based to see a representatives of a mining company with interests in Sierra Leone. The company was linked to Sandline, as were the representatives he saw.

Later, Mr Penfold was involved at every stage of the contract between Sandline and the Sierra Leone government. President Kabbah, to whom he was close, asked and received his advice on whether he should accept the deal. Sandline also alleged that Mr Penfold put them in touch with President Kabbah, though Mr Penfold denies this.

Mr Penfold was "unwise" and showed a lack of caution in his dealings with Tim Spicer, Sandline's senior official, Sir Thomas said. However, he did not recommend he should be disciplined. In particular, Mr Penfold failed properly to read a copy of the UN arms embargo and so was unaware that it covered President Kabbah's government.

Foreign Office staff were also kept informed, the report said, largely by Mr Penfold but also on a visit by Sandline to their offices, and in telephone calls. Despite this, officials from the Equatorial Africa Desk (EAD) warned John Flynn, appointed special representative to Sierra Leone in January, to avoid contact with Sandline.

The EAD also put out a statement, when press reports first emerged about Sandline's operations in Sierra Leone in the summer of 1997, deploring the recruitment of mercenaries.

However, despite individual failures and misjudgements, most were loyal and conscientious, Sir Thomas said. The trouble stemmed from systemic and cultural factors, Sir Thomas said.

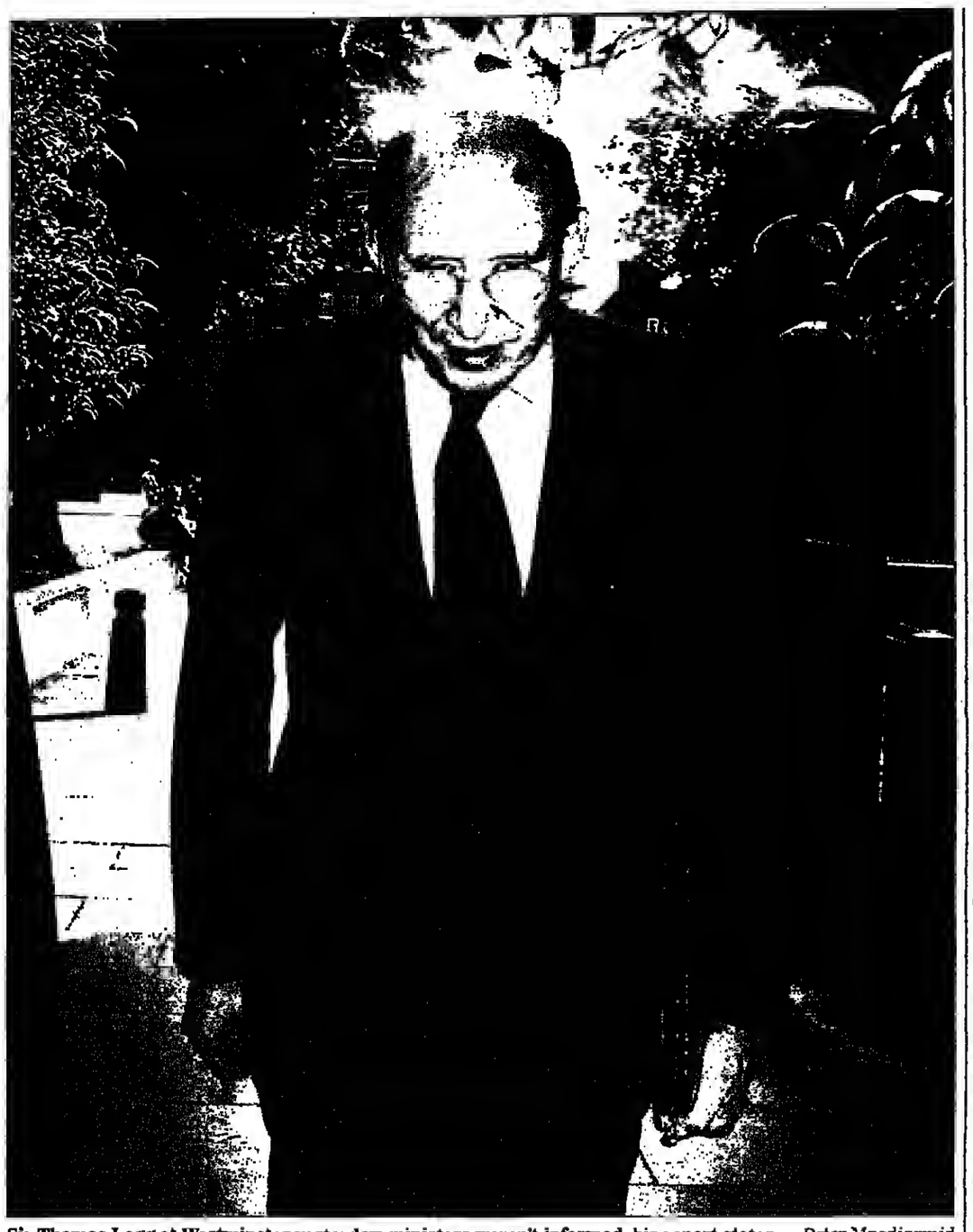
He also concluded that ministers and senior Foreign Office staff deliberately played down the embargo and the legislation that enacted it in Britain. Press releases suggested only the military junta who ousted the government of President Kabbah were covered by the embargo. "These statements were strictly correct but incomplete," Sir Thomas said.

On 30 March, the Foreign Office Permanent Secretary, Sir John Kerr, received a minute giving details of Mr Penfold's contacts with Sandline and noting the arms shipment. He did not inform ministers, and they did not find out what was happening for another month. Sir John told the inquiry he did not recall seeing the minute.

Two military officials also knew what was happening. An MoD adviser, Colonel Andrew Gale, met Tim Spicer in February in London and also had contact with Rupert Bowen. He then briefed Foreign Office staff about his meeting.

The inquiry found little evidence that ministers were informed of what was happening. Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office minister with responsibility for Africa, was told about the Customs and Excise inquiry into Sandline in mid-April. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Dawn Primorolo, was told in early April because she was responsible for customs, but she had no reason to pass on the information, because she thought the Foreign Office ministers were already briefed.

The report drew on evidence from no fewer than 10 ministers and more than 50 officials, and Mr Cook told the House of Commons yesterday that he had accepted every one of its recommendations. These included a new unit to enforce embargoes – the previous one was closed down by the Conservatives in 1996 – closer control on contacts with mercenaries or "private military companies", better communications and better briefing of ministers. In particular, the quality of parliamentary briefings to ministers needed "serious attention", he said. Officials should be more sensitive to domestic politics and to domestic legislation affecting them.



Sir Thomas Legg at Westminster yesterday: ministers weren't informed, his report states *Peter Macdiarmid*

THE MERCENARIES AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE

SANDLINE – timetable of contacts with officials.

March 1997: Peter Penfold, High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, visits Sandline's sister company, Branch Energy, on Foreign Office (FO) advice. He meets Tony Buckingham and Rupert Bowen, both of whom are linked to Sandline.
10 December: Buckingham and Bowen visit the FO on behalf of Branch Energy.
23 December: Buckingham and Tim Spicer, senior official of Sandline, meet Penfold for lunch on the day the arms contract is signed.
30 December: Penfold spells out his involvement in a letter to a FO official. It disappears, but he keeps a copy.
19 January 1998: Spicer visits FO to brief on his Sierra Leone contract.
28 January: Penfold meets Spicer at Sandline's office on the King's Road, London.
29 January: Penfold briefs FO officials about Sandline and gives them its strategy document.
2 February: Penfold gives a minute to FO officials confirming arms contract.
18 February: FO refers allegation of breach of UN arms embargo to Customs & Excise; criminal investigation begins.
28 February: Spicer phones Penfold to say the weapons have arrived in Guinea, where the Sierra Leone government is exiled.
8 March: A newspaper alleges Penfold colluded in the embargo breach.
13 March: Penfold sends a full review of his contact with Sandline to the FO.
15 April: Spicer phones Penfold to ask for a meeting. Penfold refuses.

30,000 can stay – but no benefits

IMMIGRATION
BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

UP TO 30,000 asylum-seekers are to be allowed to remain in Britain as part of an overhaul of the immigration and asylum system.

But Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday that asylum-seekers are to be deprived of benefit and will be scattered around the country in accommodation bought by the Home Office.

They will be given no choice of where they live and will be issued with vouchers to exchange for food, clothing and toiletries while they wait for their applications to be heard.

Immigrant welfare groups predicted that the new arrangement would leave asylum seekers stranded in isolated towns with no access to community groups or immigration lawyers.

Nick Hardwick, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said: "These people will be dumped on inappropriate sink estates and they will drift back to London to be destitute on the streets. These arrangements put the Government at risk of replacing a shambles with another shambles."

Announcing the White Paper on Immigration and Asylum to the Commons, Mr Straw denied he was offering an amnesty to asylum-seekers, but said: "We cannot create the faster system to which we are committed without clearing existing backlogs."

As a result, 10,000 asylum-seekers who made their initial claim before 1 July 1993 will be allowed to remain indefinitely. Up to 20,000 others, who applied between 1993 and 1995, will be given four years' exceptional leave to remain in Britain.

The Government has put aside £100m to clear a backlog of 75,000 asylum applications. A national body will be set up to house asylum-seekers by buying accommodation from local authorities, housing associations and private landlords. The budget for the scheme will be operated by the Home Office.

Mr Straw said that the numbers of asylum-seekers had increased from 4,000 to 34,000 in 10 years. About three-quarters of applications are refused. "There is no doubt that the asylum system is being abused," he said.

He announced a series of measures designed to clamp down on false applications. Immigration officers are to be given new powers to raid premises and carry out searches. More immigration liaison officers are to be stationed at airports overseas to prevent asylum-seekers boarding flights to Britain without the correct papers.

Mr Straw also announced plans to regulate unscrupulous immigration advisers and to prosecute those asylum-seekers whose claims amounted to "blatant and often cynical abuse".

In an effort to make the system "firmer and faster" applicants will be required to produce documents within five days instead of 28. The Government also plans to increase the use of detention centres and give statutory powers to the officers who work in them.

The Home Office hopes that by April 2001 all asylum applications will be heard within two months and appeals within a further four months.

Immigration welfare groups welcomed plans announced in the White Paper to give asylum-seekers who are held in detention the right to apply for bail.

The Government also promised to give permanent status within four years instead of seven years to those allowed exceptional leave to remain.

Mr Straw offered a right of appeal to family members of British citizens who were refused a visa to visit.

Responding to the White Paper, Sir Norman Fowler, shadow Home Secretary, predicted that the new "benefits in kind" arrangements for asylum-seekers would cost the Government £1bn a year. "It must be sensible to radically reduce that bill for the taxpayer and divert that money to better purposes," he said.

Claude Moraes, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said the package was "more tough than fair. Asylum-seekers need money, not vouchers, because it gives dignity and independence."

Zoe Harper, of Asylum Aid, said the Immigration Service had already started moving asylum-seekers to towns such as Lancing, in Sussex, which had negligible numbers of people from the ethnic minorities and few legal facilities for asylum applicants. "If people are sent forcibly to far-off places we would be very worried about their access to community support, legal advice and counselling services," she said.

THE HOUSE

Strong voice for human rights

During the committee stage debate on the Northern Ireland Bill, Paul Murphy, Northern Ireland minister, said the proposed Human Rights Commission would be "one of the strongest human rights institutions in Europe". It would advise the Government and the Assembly on human rights; examine Assembly legislation and offer opinions on whether it was compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights; and advise on drawing up a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

Today

Commons: Health questions. Northern Ireland Sentences Bill, Lords amendments. Crime and Disorder Bill, Lords amendment. National Minimum Wage Bill, Lords amendments. Private Business: Lloyds TSB Bill, third reading. Adjournment debate on regulation of Lloyd's insurance market, opened (Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Con, Cotswold)
Lords: City of Edinburgh (Guided Busways) Order Confirmation Bill, third reading. Scotland Bill, committee. Debate on Government's economic assessment under the Maastricht treaty.

Don't be tempted, civil servants told

LOBBYING
BY KIM SENGUPTA

LOBBYISTS ARE a fact of modern political life and cannot be wished away, but civil servants should be ultra-careful in dealing with them, according to a government report commissioned following the row over "cash for access".

The report by the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Richard Wilson, recommends that civil servants should not face a total ban on meeting political lobbyists, but any contact should be governed by the anti-sleaze principles drawn up by Lord Nolan and the Civil Service code of conduct.

Sir Richard's guidelines say: "Lobbyists are a feature of our democratic system. There is no ban on civil servants having dealings with them where this serves a proper purpose and is conducted in a proper manner. But the need for propriety is crucial."

Sir Richard acknowledges that lobbyists are "bound to want to talk up their own influence and contacts", and he warns officials to be vigilant about any possible conflicts of interest, and not to be "tempted into doing something which would lay you open to criticism or be misunderstood".

Leaking confidential or intrinsically sensitive material to lobbyists, or even arranging privileged access to ministers, was "completely unacceptable" and could lead to dismissal, Sir Richard said. But there were also "grey areas" where "common sense" was needed including acceptance of gifts, remarks which "could be represented" as leaking information, and only meeting groups from one side of an issue.

Sir Richard: 'Vigilance'

Civil servants should exercise judgement and consider a scale of luxury when accepting hospitality. Officials should ask themselves whether entertainment was too "lavish" and more than they could afford personally. Senior mandarins should also consider whether their presence at a function could be viewed as endorsement.

The report was made public by the Prime Minister yesterday in response to backbench questions prompted by the recent spate of stories about the influence of lobbyists, many with New Labour links, who boasted that they could obtain Government "inside information" for clients.

Yesterday, the newly appointed Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson, was pressed by Labour backbencher Gordon Prentice, MP for Pendle, over his connections with lobbying companies. Mr Mandelson had become embroiled in the cash-for-access affair when his friend and former researcher, Derek Draper, while working for GPC Market Access, claimed the that the then minister without portfolio had vetted his newspaper column.

Since then Mr Draper has lost his job, his newspaper column and apparently his friendship with Mr Mandelson. Sir Richard said in his report that when there was no impropriety involved, there was no question of severing social friendships with lobbyists, and "if you are married to one, you don't have to get divorced".

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CS is safe

CS spray has been scientifically evaluated and found not to present any significant threat to human health, Lord Williams of Mostyn said in a written reply last night to Lord Dholakia (Lib Dem). He said that its use by police is under review.

Behind bars

Joyce Quin, Minster of State at the Home Office, announced that the prison population is 1.25 per 1,000 in England and Wales, compared with 0.87 in 1993. She was answering the Deputy Leader of the Lib Dems, Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed).

هكذا من الاصل

Muslims persecute us, says bishop

By Clare Garner

CONVERSION FROM Islam to Christianity spells death – despite reassurances from Western academics that Muslims and Christians can co-exist, bishops at the Lambeth Conference were told yesterday.

Relations with the Muslim world are high on the agenda at the conference. The recent conviction for blasphemy of the Pakistani Christian Iyub Massih and the subsequent protest suicide of the Bishop of Faisalabad, Dr John Joseph, have heightened the urgency of the debate.

The Rt Rev Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Bishop of Kaduna, in Nigeria, said despite claims that the two faiths could live together in mutual trust and respect, his own experience in northern Nigeria gave him little grounds for optimism.

"The reality is conversion in Islam spells death," he said. "That is what we experience and they will refer you to the Koran. If you want (the views of) academics, it may be different; but if you want reality, come to Africa and see what's happening – because conversion equals death."

Bishop Idowu-Fearon was responding to the Pakistani-born Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Rev Michael Nazir-Ali, who was chairing yesterday's plenary on Muslim-Christian relations.

Bishop Nazir-Ali said that, as part of his Christian mission, he had taken on the task of teaching that Islamic law – or Shari'ah – is not unchangeable and that the basic tenets of the religion are, in fact, democratic. "I hope that even in the Sudan and even in Pakistan, co-existence is still possible as it was in the past," he said.

But Bishop Idowu-Fearon spoke of the "serious, deep-rooted hatred between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria" and of Christians having "no rights at all" in the north of the country.

Christians in this area constitute only 3 per cent of the population, so part of the solution would be conversion, he maintained.

Islam has replaced Communism as the "enemy number one", the Bishop of Jerusalem, the Rt Rev Rih Abu El-Assal, told the gathering of 750 bishops in Canterbury.

"Whatever the views of Christians, more specifically western Christians, are on Islam, no one can deny it was an essential aspect of the history of humankind. Many Orientalists viewed it with suspicion and caused many to fear and misunderstand it. No wonder many of us relate to it today as a problem rather than as a challenge. Muslims are human beings, created by the same God who created all of us, not by a semi-God."

Asked if a Muslim-Christian war on a global scale was inevitable in the next century, Bishop Idowu-Fearon said: "If it's going to happen at all, I believe it's going to begin in the continent of Africa."

One way Christians can avoid such a war is to study Islam, he suggested. "I look at the Roman Catholic establishment and they have a huge, huge organisation in Rome. No matter what you need to know, you can get it.

"I'm not asking that we duplicate that, but something similar, where faithful Anglicans who do not want to be confrontational can go and learn from history."

■ Western Christians should be "less apologetic about being spiritual", the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said yesterday. The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, struck "a spiritual nerve", he told the 600 bishops' spouses at the Lambeth Conference.

"The world wants us to speak of God, to speak of our faith, our love of God and the meaning of life and death. We in the West have so much to learn from Christians in other parts of the world. The vigour of your spirituality rebukes and yet encourages us."

VIAGRA CORNER

Dispatches from the Frontiers of Medicine

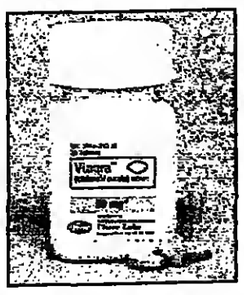
VIAGRA IS being offered for sale by a company based in the British Isles for the first time.

Direct Response Marketing (DRM) (Jersey) is offering Viagra by mail-order to Internet users who supply their credit-card details. It is a case of the flexible friend being used to help restore the slightly too-flexible friend.

Viagra remains unlicensed in the UK. It is only available from doctors on a "named patient" basis – a prescription for which the doctor takes full legal responsibility should anything go wrong.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said yesterday there was nothing illegal in companies offering Viagra on the Internet.

Viagra is gaining more and more fans. Hugh Hefner, 72, the founder of the Playboy Clubs, revealed that he was a regular popper. "I'd say that it's as close as you get to a fountain of youth," he said. "It's nice to know that you don't have to worry about performance. That's a given, a certainty." Whether Mr Hefner gets his supplies from DRM (Jersey) is not clear.



The company's website stressed – perhaps not surprisingly – that it had a reputation for being completely upstanding.

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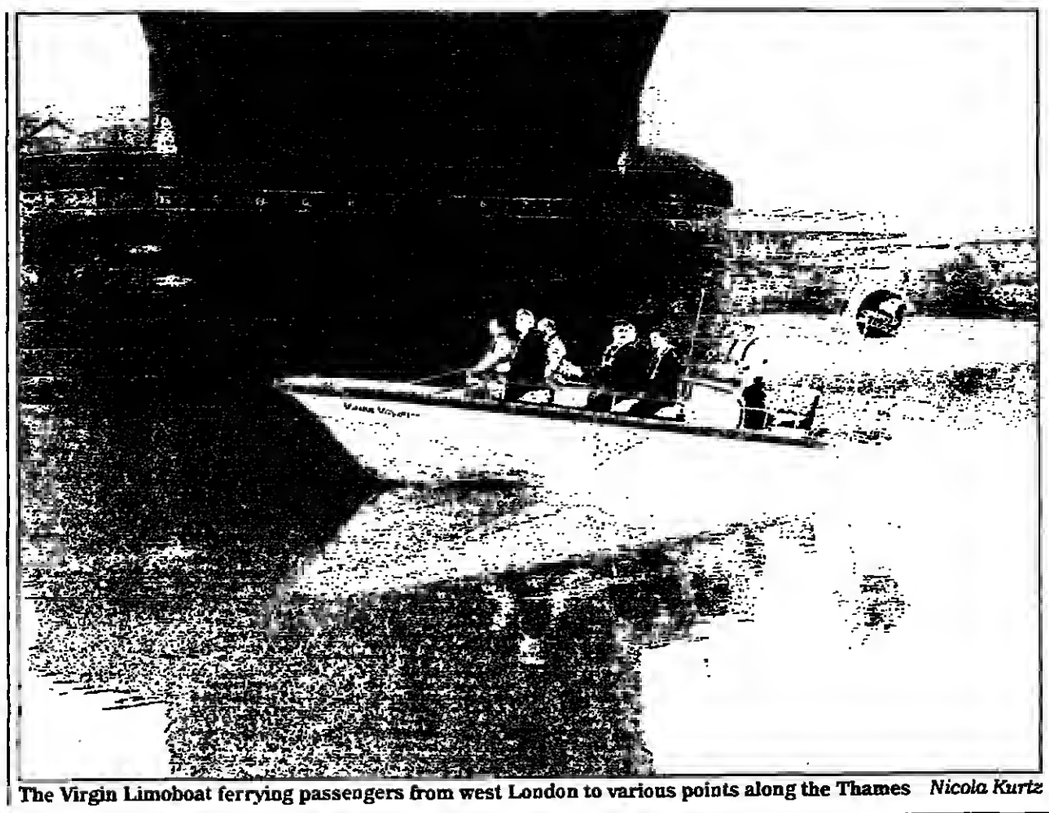


The Virgin Limoboat ferrying passengers from west London to various points along the Thames *Nicola Kurtz*

Thames 'can be highway for London'

By Kate Watson-Smyth

THE CROWDED, sweaty Tube journey to work could become a thing of the past for commuters as more people turn to river transport in the capital.

As Virgin Atlantic yesterday launched its "limoboat" to take Upper Class passengers from Heathrow to the City, London Transport said the Thames would eventually become a popular route for commuters.

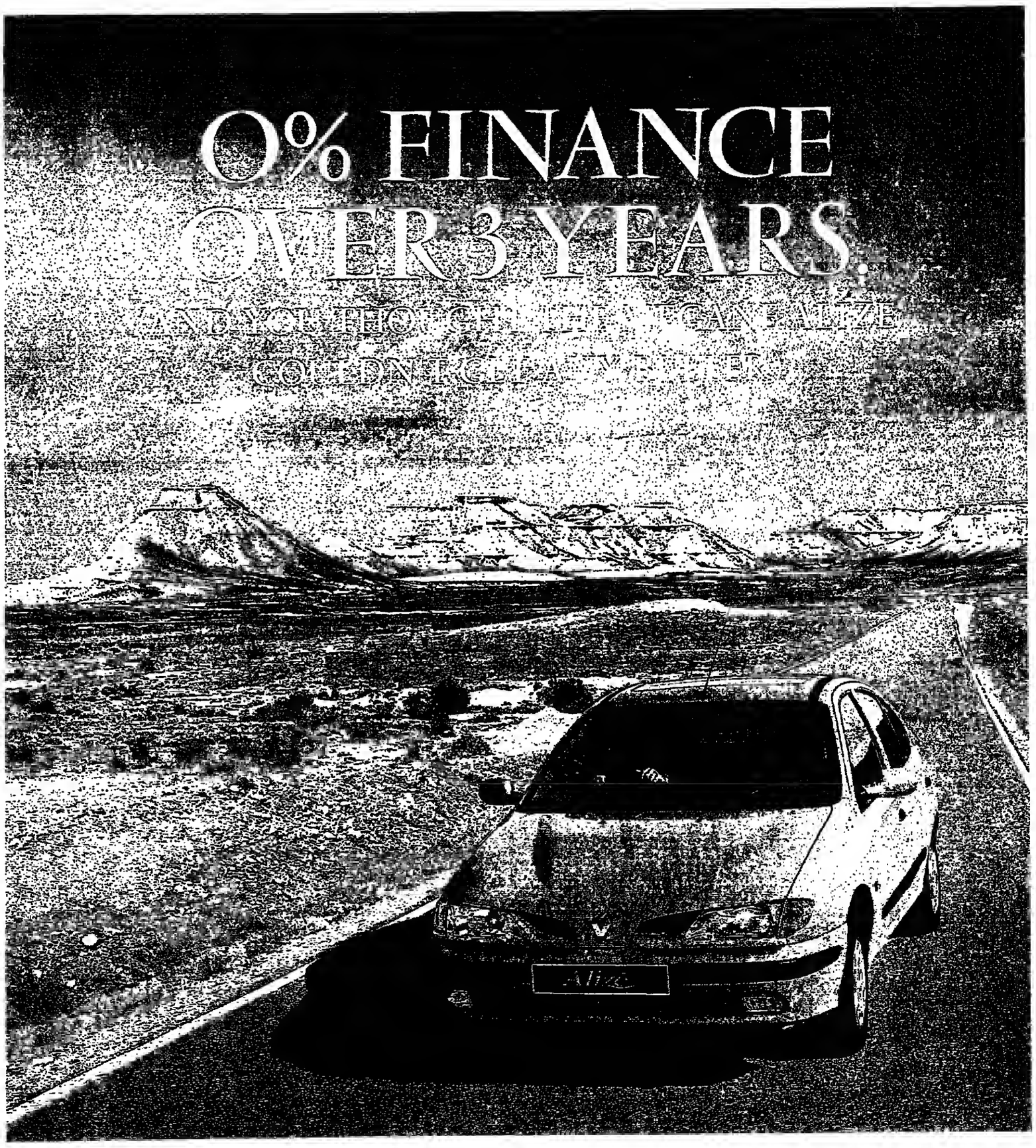
Next year, the Port of London Authority will transfer ownership of its piers to London Transport, allowing river travel to be integrated with Tube and bus services. New piers will be built at Blackfriars and Waterloo, linking with Tube networks.

Several previous attempts to start river services have foundered. Masid Greenidge, of London Transport, blamed high operating expenses. "In the past they have not been subsidised, which means that fares have been as much as £6 one way. A number of the piers were privately owned and, if the boat operators couldn't afford a licence to dock there, then they could not provide as many convenient stops as people wanted.

"And many of the boats did not have a timetable – they would often wait for enough passengers before setting off, which meant that people ended up being late for work."

Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic, said: "I share the view of most Londoners who think the Thames ought to be used far more than it is now. Limoboat is an exhilarating and environmentally friendly way of getting into the city."

Passengers who want to travel by river will be taken in a limousine to Brentford, west London, from where they can take a boat to various points along the river, such as Chelsea Harbour, Westminster and the Millennium Dome.



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Bentley secrets drove eyewitness PC to his death

BY KIM SENGUPTA

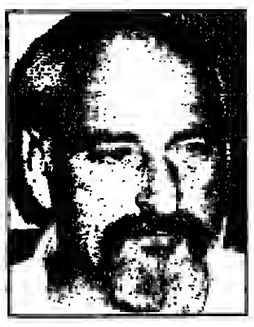
A POLICE officer decorated for his part in the capture of Derek Bentley died broken, lonely and racked with guilt because he believed the teenager's execution for murdering a colleague was a terrible miscarriage of justice. *The Independent* can reveal.

PC Bob Jaggs was awarded the British Empire Medal for his bravery on the night PC Sidney Miles was killed on a rooftop in Croydon, south London – a killing that led to Bentley being hanged for murder, while his accomplice, Christopher Craig, was jailed for actually pulling the trigger.

Before his own death almost 30 years later, PC Jaggs, by then an alcoholic, told a colleague he was haunted by knowledge that he had found unbearable – that the bullet that killed PC Miles probably came from a police gun and that Craig, who allegedly jumped from the roof, had been thrown off by police officers.

At their Old Bailey trial in 1952, Craig and Bentley were found guilty of the murder of PC Miles. Craig, the jury decided, had fired the fatal shot. But at the age of 16 he was too young to be hanged and was jailed. Bentley, convicted on the basis that he and Craig were engaged in a joint enterprise, went to the gallows, despite a massive public outcry.

This week the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Collins will give their judgment on an appeal to quash Bentley's conviction. Most observers believe the appeal will be successful and that Bentley will be exonerated.



PC Jaggs, a much-decorated ex-serviceman, left the Metropolitan Police in the mid-Seventies on an ill-health pension. By this time he had a severe drink problem. A colleague who tried to help him at the time and who is a high-profile serving officer, said: "I certainly remember the words he used – 'If you carried the secret I have carried all these years, you would be an alcoholic.'

"Jaggs believed that Sidney Miles was not killed by Craig but by mistake in police fire. The bullet that killed Miles was never found, and a proper forensic examination would have proved that Craig could not have killed the police officer. But Craig was firing at the police officers, and he must have believed himself that he shot Miles."

The calibre of the bullet that killed PC Miles has been shrouded in controversy. He was killed by a large-calibre bullet. Craig was 39 feet from the policeman when he opened fire with a .455 Eley. "At the time, feelings were running high. Jaggs said Craig was thrown off the rooftop by some officers and received some pretty severe injuries. But it was the hanging of Bentley which really affected Jaggs. And I must accept, after listening to him, it affected me," said the officer.

The fall from the rooftop left Craig with a fractured spine, breastbone and forearm. He was released after serving ten and a half years of his jail sentence. Now 61, a retired farmer, he was prepared to give evidence at the Bentley appeal, but was not called.

Of all the police officers on the rooftop at the time of the killing, the least is known about PC Jaggs. Even members of Beotley's family and campaign team are unaware of what happened to him after he received his BEM. The former colleague said: "Before his downward spiral began with the drinking, Jaggs was a very professional, highly thought-of officer. He was always impeccably turned out. His problems began with what happened to Bentley. After he left the force, he deteriorated rapidly. He was eventually found dead lying in the gutter. He had swallowed his own vomit. It was very, very sad."

Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, was among the officers who tried to help PC Jaggs when he was leaving the police force, and spoke to him about his experience. "I don't want to discuss what Bob Jaggs said to me. But what he did say made me decide that Bentley should not have been hanged, and has also made me an opponent of capital punishment."

John O'Connor, another officer who served with PC Jaggs and later became commander of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad, said: "There is no doubt that Jaggs had been through something particularly traumatic and at the end that contributed to his death."

PC Bob Jaggs turned to drink after Derek Bentley was hanged. Above (from left): Bentley, PC Sidney Miles and Christopher Craig *Main picture: Popperfoto*

Police use lasers to beat laws on bugging

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

POLICE FORCES are increasingly using bugging devices based on laser-beam and microwave technology that allow them to work around the law.

Under Surveillance, a report published today by Justice, the legal human-rights organisation, calls for a system to regulate the lawful interception of all forms of communications, including electronic mail.

Once the preserve of MI5, the Security Service and special units in the Metropolitan Police, the use of listening devices is becoming common for forces throughout Britain. But long-distance microphones allow officers to avoid breaching the Police Act 1997, which outlaws trespass or criminal damage.

The report states that the Data Protection Registrar should have investigation and audit powers over criminal intelligence data, much of which Justice claims "may be highly speculative".

Justice says the current legislation provides no protection to people being bugged in premises where their landlord or employer has given permission to the police, or to those who are being recorded while in police or prison cells.

The report was carried out with the Association of Chief Police Officers, which is also anxious for reform.

Madeleine Colvin, the report's author, said: "The Police Act is a nonsense. It is designed to protect the police rather than uphold the right to privacy."

The number of warrants granted for telephone taps in Britain has increased by 75 per cent since 1992.

How sick was my valley – a Welsh soap opera

BY ROGER DOBSON

A HEALTH authority has run into fierce criticism for publishing its annual report in the style of a soap opera – complete with scathing criticisms of the public.

The report, published Tuesday is meant to portray an everyday story of working class Welsh folk. Instead it describes them in none-too-flattering and distinctly unhealthy terms.

There's Megan (the "mam") with her sad looks and Seventies perm, the chauvinistic husband Dai, with his beer gut, schoolgirl daughter Bethan and her baby, and boyfriend Greg, who's always in and out of jail for drugs and joy-riding.

And then there is, or was, Granny Rose, who has just smoked herself to death after her husband ran off, bad-breathed Granny Flo, and son Owen, a computer nerd.

The report, by health managers in Swansea, is the first such soap opera ever produced and departs radically from the usual dry format for such annual reports. As well as the unflattering characters, there are the usual facts and figures. Critics claim that the report, entitled *Bethan's Story*, perpetuates stereotypes of the Welsh.

"There is now a feeling of self-confidence in Wales with the Assembly, and images like these can lead to people believing that this is how people here behave and how they are," said Morgan Chambers, a former county councillor in the valleys and an environmentalist who is bidding to become a member of the new National Assembly.

"This kind of approach is negative, and these do seem to be dated images."

Dr Peter Donnelly, the director of public health for the Swansea-based Iechyd Morgannwg Health Authority, seems to have anticipated complaints when he wrote his foreword to the book.

"Some may object to our area being portrayed in a less than perfect light. Others may be offended by our explicitness. There is always a danger that we will be seen as condemnatory on one hand or paternalistic on the other, in the way we portray oot fictional family which, of necessity, is something of a caricature," he said. The aim, he said, was to raise awareness about public health issues through an everyday story of Morgannwg folk: "The good things about soap operas is that millions of people watch them. Annual public health reports, on the other hand, are generally wordy, weighty, and at worst binned, and at best filed."

In a style more *Eastenders* than Dylan Thomas, the book follows a year in the life of the fictional family with their health and social problems.

There is, for instance, the time leading up to 15-year old Bethan getting pregnant:

"Let me have some of that," said Bethan, grabbing his arm. They struggled with the tin of beer, spilling the foaming liquid on themselves, laughing. She held the can to her lips, and, with her head tilted back, he kissed her on the neck ...

Then there is the point at which Bethan tells Dai that she is expecting a baby, causing him to have a stroke:

"Eeeeeeee, Beth", he managed to gasp, shutting his eyes and feeling decidedly giddy ... "Don't say any more now, you've given me quite a shock."

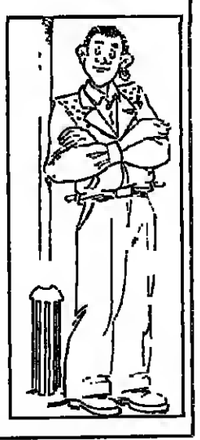
THE CAST LIST ... DAI THE DEATH AND COMPANY GO IN SEARCH OF A CURE

Megan (left): a part-time carer, is 35, small, dark-haired, with a shaggy Seventies perm and clothes that have seen better days. A smoker, she always looks tired and worried. Blessed with a pleasant nature, she seems to have inherited her sense of humour from her great-granny. She still loves her husband of 19 years, Dai, but never seems to have much time with him these days

Dai, above: a large beer-gutted bear of a man who loves his family and is a good provider. He also has a big appetite. Once said: "Breakfast is the best part of the day closely seconded by a couple of swift pints in the pub on the way home."

Bethan (right): aged 15, and dresses like Sporty Spice with platform trainers. Has a two-month-old baby, Morgan, by Greg

Greg: is 19, tall and slim, clean-shaven, with earrings. Wears a black leather bomber jacket, designer shirt and trousers, white trainers. No academic qualifications, but streetwise. Currently on probation for a number of offences, including joyriding and being found with illegal substances



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THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 28 July 1998

Bhutto denies kickback charges

BY JASON BURKE
in Karachi

BENAZIR BHUTTO, the former prime minister of Pakistan, appeared in court yesterday to answer charges that she received more than £2m in kickbacks on a government contract for hundreds of Polish tractors.

Ms Bhutto, 46, denies the charges, which have been brought against her by a special investigating commission set up by the present government in Pakistan. They claim that Ms Bhutto and her husband earned hundreds of millions of pounds from corruption before being dismissed from power 18 months ago. Three other corruption charges have been registered against Ms Bhutto by the investigators. She denies all of them.

In violent scenes outside the court, in the north-eastern city of Lahore, supporters of Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party, were baton-charged by police. Twenty-five people were injured, one seriously.

The demonstration was the first of a series that party leaders said were planned for the coming weeks.

Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet have been widely criticised in Pakistan for mishandling the economy since the country's nuclear tests nearly two months ago.

Despite still retaining a massive majority in parliament, popular support for Mr Sharif has been severely eroded by recently introduced economic measures, which have hit the middle class and the poor.

In the past week strikes have gripped the country. In the north-western city of Peshawar police used tear gas to disperse rickshaw drivers protesting against the price of fuel while in Karachi and the east of the country thousands of retailers have shut their shops to demonstrate against the planned extension of sales tax.

Mr Sharif has always been seen as the champion of Pakistan's commercial classes and to lose their support is a serious blow.

Speaking outside the court yesterday Ms Bhutto said that the time had come for a broad-based coalition administration. "The formation of a national government is the only solution to the problems facing Pakistan," she said.

At the weekend Ms Bhutto signalled to other opposition groups that she was interested in working together to oust Mr Sharif.

Talking to reporters at Karachi airport on her arrival from Dubai on Sunday evening she offered to negotiate with the Muttahida Quami Movement, until recently allies of Mr Sharif and bitter enemies of the PPP.

Ms Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari also appeared before the Lahore court to answer separate charges relating to a series of Swiss bank accounts he is alleged to have used to launder the proceeds of corruption and, according to government investigators, drug smuggling.

Earlier this month a Swiss judge formerly indicted Mr Zardari on money laundering charges and said he planned to indict Ms Bhutto shortly. Mr Zardari denies the charge.

In a bravura display of courtroom defiance yesterday Ms Bhutto repeatedly accused the judges of bias and said that all the charges against her were politically motivated. The case was adjourned until 20 August.

A highlander of Yemen, where the number of guns is estimated to be more than three times the population of 16 million *Patricia Aithie*

Three nuns shot dead in Yemen

A GUNMAN who had fought in Bosnia shot dead three Catholic nuns from Mother Teresa's order in Yemen yesterday.

"A man suspected to be an Islamic extremist opened fire on three nuns and killed them instantly," said an official from the governorate of Hodeida, 140 miles west of the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

The official said the nuns, employed as nurses by a charity, were killed on their way to work. Two of them were from India and one from the Philippines.

Residents detained the gunman immediately after the incident as he tried to escape. They handed him over to the police.

About a dozen nuns work in the medical profession in Hodeida, a Red Sea port. "The interrogation of the killer, who used a Kalashnikov, is still going on... He confessed to the crime and said he would go to heaven," the official said.

The suspect, Abdullah al-Nasheri, 22, from Sanaa, had said during questioning that he killed the three nurses because they were "preaching Christianity".

The official added that the suspect had fought in the Bosnian conflict as a volunteer in 1992. He said that Nasheri had lived in Bosnia since 1992, had acquired Bosnian nationality and had married a Bosnian woman.

Many Muslims went to fight alongside their brethren in the Bosnian war.

Residents said it was the first report of violence in Yemen against the nuns, who have been providing humanitarian help in the impoverished state for several decades.

More than 100 foreigners, including diplomats but mainly tourists, have been kidnapped by disgruntled tribesmen in Yemen since 1992. Most were released unharmed.

Guns, mainly Kalashnikov automatic rifles, are openly carried in Yemen, one of the poorest Arab countries.

Unofficial estimates put the number of firearms in the country at 50 million, more than three times the population of 16 million.

— Reuters

Serbs claim victory at Kosovo road link

SERBIAN SECURITY forces announced yesterday they had captured a stronghold of Kosovo Albanian guerrillas in a campaign to regain control of main transport routes across the province.

Serbian state television broadcast what it described as footage of ex-Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) positions in Lapusnik, "a notorious terrorist base", which it said security forces had won back on Sunday.

The footage showed trenches, ammunition, communication equipment, a heavy machine-gun, rebel uniforms and a makeshift surgery.

The Serb Media Centre in Pristina, the Kosovo regional capital, said the security forces had unblocked most of the Pristina-Pec road at the weekend, eliminating several dozen KLA barricades along the way.

If true, Lapusnik's capture would underline a shift in fortunes for the KLA, which has seized up to half of Kosovo since February only to get knocked back by a recent Serbian counter-offensive.

The KLA's momentum began to falter when it was repelled by superior Serbian firepower in an attempt to take its first big town, Orahovac, a week ago.

The Serbian offensive has coincided with an increase in shooting incidents along Serbia's border with northern Albania, a backwater used by the KLA to muster fighters and weapons.

The Albanian Interior Ministry said Serbian troops fired on the Albanian police building at the border checkpoint in Morini early on Sunday, then tried to shoot their way through.

In Tirana, the Albanian government denounced Serb "provocations" of Albanian forces along its border with Kosovo and called on Belgrade to respect its territorial integrity. Tirana said Serb artillery shells have landed on its territory four times in just over a week, branding the incidents as attempts to engulf it in a wider war.

In Brussels, it was announced that three senior officials from the European Union will go to Belgrade today for talks with the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Zivadin Jovanovic, about the Kosovo crisis. A request to meet Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic remained unanswered.

– Reuters/AP

Tidal wave deaths hit 2,000

THREE TIDAL waves that devastated Papua New Guinea's north-west coast 10 days ago killed at least 2,000 and the death toll is likely to rise further, rescue officials said yesterday.

They also said another three miles of coastline around Malol would be added to an area of about 45 square miles already sealed off around Sissano lagoon because the area had become badly contaminated by decomposing bodies.

The latest figure is an increase of about 500 known to have died when the three tidal waves, called tsunamis, hit on 17 July.

Police commissioner Peter Aigilo said 10,068 survivors had been identified and 1,131 people had been treated in hospitals since the waves of up to 10 metres swept over a string of small fishing villages around Sissano lagoon.

"The death toll so far is 2,000 and this figure is expected to increase as more bodies are recovered from the Sissano lagoon and the mangrove swamp," Mr Aigilo said in a statement dated 26 July but released yesterday. Up to 3,000 people may have been killed, authorities say.

Many of the victims were children and education authorities were attempting to work out how many of the 1,139 students enrolled in four local schools and their 54 teachers survived.

The discovery by United States tracker dogs of another 52 bodies around Malol village near the lagoon at the weekend came as relief agencies tried to resettle thousands of homeless people.

Ed Wolf, a dog handler, told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio that the four dogs had become disoriented and exhausted because they were not used to finding so many bodies in such a short space of time.

Rescuers said the bodies had begun to decompose under the tropical sun to an extent that retrieval was almost impossible. Crocodiles feasting on the remains had also become a threat to rescuers.

— Reuters

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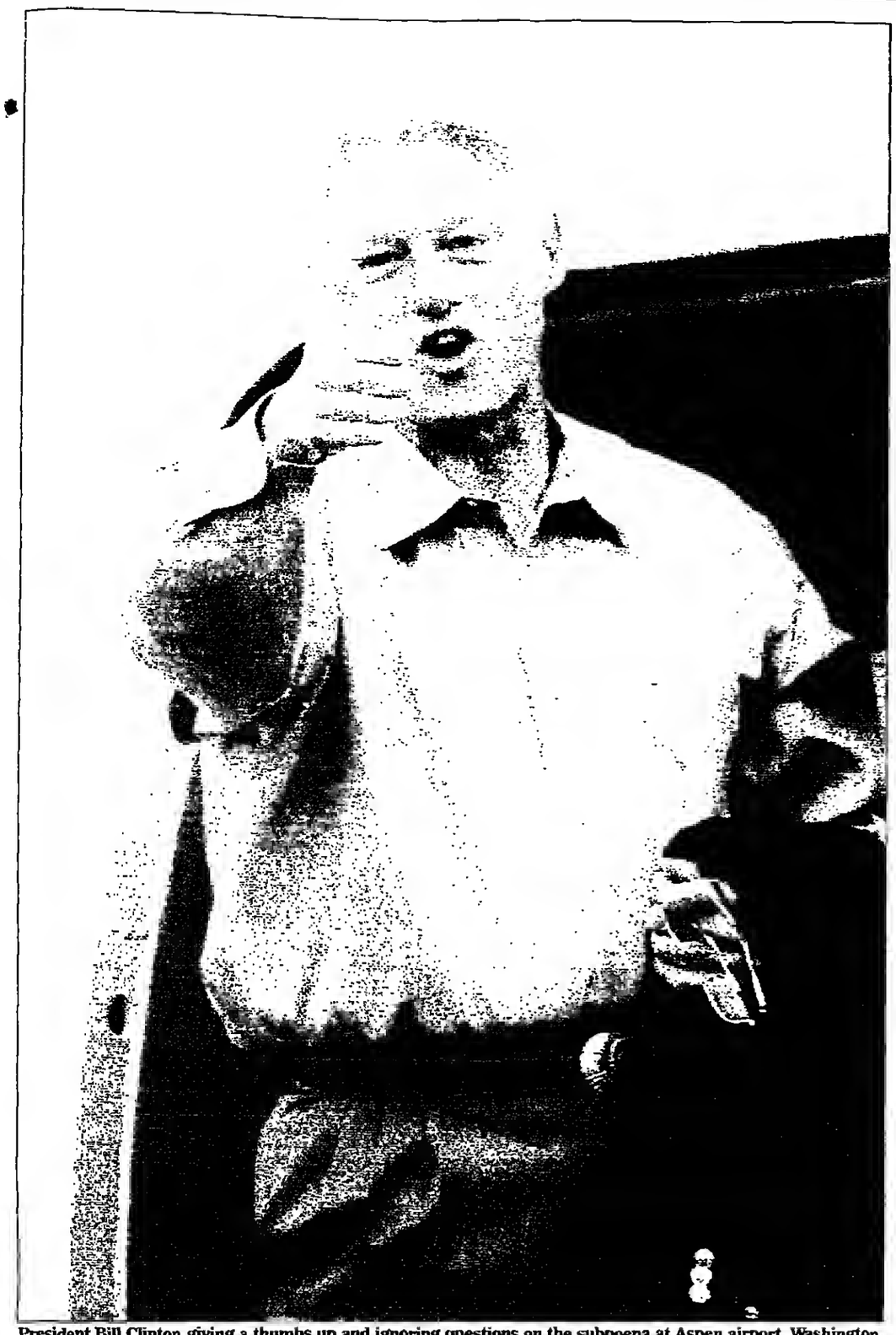

President Bill Clinton giving a thumbs up and ignoring questions on the subpoena at Aspen airport, Washington, as he boarded his aircraft for Albuquerque at the weekend after golfing in the mountains *Rick Wilking*

The Clinton show keeps rolling as subpoena looms

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

LAWYERS FOR President Bill Clinton were trying to reach a compromise yesterday with the independeot prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, that would fend off a constitutional showdown between two of the three branches of the United States constitutional system: the executive and the judiciary.

With Mr Clinton subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky case as early as today, White House officials reported "good progress" in the talks, but forecast that negotiations could continue for several days.

Mr Clinton himself remained above the fray, on a visit to the south-western state of New Mexico for his latest public meeting on the state pensions system and a series of Democratic Party fundraising events, and he made no reference to the potential crisis. The US political establishment was also otherwise engaged: normal congressional business was in abeyance to mourn the two police shot in the capital last Friday, as preparations proceeded for today's memorial service in the Capitol rotunda.

Legal and political analysts, however, were in no doubt about the gravity of the situation. Phrases such as "uncharted territory" and "edge of the abyss" peppered their discourse, with the one point of agreement being the common interest of the White House and Mr Starr in avoiding an open clash. The very fact that the two sides were talking, through their lawyers, was interpreted as evidence that Mr Clinton would *not* defy the subpoena outright and was prepared to testify in some way. The question was how.

Senior advisers to Mr Clinton were said to have warned him that he could endanger his support from Democrats in Congress if he openly challenged, or ignored, the subpoena. According to some legal specialists, Mr Clinton could have constitutional justification, as President and head of the executive branch, for refusing to subordinate himself to the judicial branch. Politically, however, this would be risky.

With mid-term elections scheduled for November and Mr Clinton still his party's greatest electoral asset, the advice was reportedly that he should not defy the subpoena because this would make it look as if he had something to bide.

Instead, he was to cultivate an air of wanting to co-operate – so long as the dignity of the presidential office was maintained. This is the stance that has been adopted by the White House since Mr Starr served the subpoena last week.

One compromise apparently being canvassed yesterday was the possibility of bussing the 23 members of the grand jury to see the president at the White House, rather than requiring Mr Clinton to go to them at the Washington DC courthouse.

A White House offer for Mr Clinton to provide answers to written questions has apparently been rejected by Mr Starr, who is now considering a new offer of videotaped testimooy before the judge and lawyers, along the lines of Mr Clintoo's testimony in the civil suit for sexual barassment brought by Paula Jones –which was dismissed in the spring.

Mr Starr, however, is reportedly insisting that Mr Clinton should be directly confronted by the grand jury. Unless the independent prosecutor gives ground on this, bussing – or possibly the use of closed-circuit television – looks like the only option.

While the White House and Mr Starr have clearly been concerned to play down the drama of the subpoena – the first time a sitting president has been summoned to appear before a grand jury in US history – there was no guarantee yesterday that the two sides would be able to agree.

For one leading Republican, Senator Orrin Hatch, failure to answer the subpoena would place Mr Clinton on the wrong side of the law and thus expose him – as a demoostrated charge of obstructing the cause of justice surely would – to impeachnvent.

For others, however, including Republicans, the constitutioal position is by no means as clear. The Supreme Court ruled against Richard Nixon, when the former president tried to resist handing over the Watergate tapes, but in this case it is the President, not property or evidence, that is being summoned, and for this there is no precedent.

Congress to honour dead guards

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

THE AMERICAN Coogress yesterday remembered the two police officers shot dead protecting them from a gunman. "It was a death in the family," said the Senate Majority Leader, Treot Lott, after a moment of silence in the chamber.

The House of Representatives began work on a resolubon formally to allow the use of the Capitol Rotunda for a memorial service for the officers, Jacob Chestnut, 58, and John Gibson, 42.

The Rotunda memorial ceremony for the two men is an hoour usually reserved for the President and national beroes. Speakers at the ceremony will include President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore, the House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, and Mr Lott. The coffins will lie in state in the Rotunda.

As the flags over the Capitol remained at half-mast, congressional staff and employees returned to the Hill for the first time since the sbootings. But security was beightened, with additional police officers in the Capitol grounds, at eotrances to the building and throughout its corridors.

The area wbere the killings occurred was off-limits to the public, a yellow rope draped across the centre portioo of the building's famous east front, including the eotrance the gunman used.

The suspect in the shootings, Russell E Westoo Jr, 41, remained in a serious condition at Washington General Hospital yesterday, with bullet wounds to the chest, arms, thigh and buttocks. His parents, Russell Weston Sr and Arbah Jo Weston, said that they had oot spoken to their son since the shooting. "It just doesn't make any sense," his father said on ABC TV.

Weston, who is said to have a history of mental illness, was expected to have a hearing *in absentia* at a district court on charges of killing the two officers. Gibson will be buried on Thursday in Virginia. A day later, Cbestnut, a 20-year Air Force veteran, will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Communication breakdown threatens LA school system

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

WHEN CALIFORNIA voted to eod the state's system of bilingual education a little more than a month ago, many of the teachers and school principals directly affected boped the issue would somebow go away.

It did not seem possible that more than a million schoolchildren, most of them Spanish speakers with only a sbaky command of English, would have to switch language in the classroom overnight.

But that is the prospect in store when pupils return from their summer holidays, the first as early as next week. An effort to bave the vote known as Proposition 227 annulled on constitutional grounds failed, so Californian schools will now have to find a way to transform the way they operate and roll back a 22-year history of bilingual education.

The result promises to be chaos. Many bilingual teachers are reluctant to follow the new rules and there is no more than a skeleton of a new teaching syllabus in place. With time running short, parents are being invited to plump for one of a series of opbons permitted under the proposition.

They range from one-year immersion classes in English to application for a special waiver, exempting their children from the change-over altogetber. Until schools know which pupils are doing what, they will be unable to draw up even a basic timetable.

"It's going to be a bumpy ride for the first year," said Ruben Zacarias, superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, which atone has 310,000 limited-Englisb studeots, most of them Hispanic.

Opponents of the proposition believe the proposition is wrongheaded and harmful and are determined to seek further legal loopboles to have it knocked down. But supporters of the reform, including nearly all the parents of Latino schoolchildren, see the impending chaos as yet another sign of the incompetence of California's school districts.

The success of the proposition was in itself an acknowledgement that the state school system has failed. Instead of producing a new generation of truly bilingual children, it has kept Latinos trapped within their own language, while failing to maintain standards of basic English instruction to everyone else.

"To call it bilingual education is a misnomer. In practice it has been about relegating Latinos to secood-class citizenship by failing to provide them with the linguistic toots to get ahead in life. It's a class issue," said Alice Callaghan, an ardent social campaigner and key supporter of Prop 227.

According to Ms Callaghan, English immersion classes should be easy to arrange for Latino children, as they are already widely followed by Chinese, Armenians and children from any of the other dozens of ethnic minority groups wbo speak their parents' language.

Even officials such as Ted Mitchell, education adviser to the mayor of Los Angeles, say too many vested interests have been tied up in Spanisb-language instruction. Until now, bilingual teachers bave been paid at a higher grade than immersion teacbers, with bonuses attached. It has given them little incenbive to get pupils ready for English-language classes.

The gigantic LA Unified District has become a byword for poor standards, unwieldy bureaucracy and administrative incompetence. Add to that a rising wave of bostility towards Latinos and bilingual education reveals itself to be one of the most highly charged of social issues.

One board member of the LA Unified School District, Jeff Horton, told a public meeting be saw the proposition as riding "a wave of anti-immigrant and anti-foreigner sentiment". Ms Callaghan, who believes the proposition is in the Hispanic community's best interests, accused Mr Horton of "sloppiness and arrogance". And the new school year has not even begun.

Signs in English and Spanish outside Canoga Park Elementary School in Los Angeles *AP*

Manhattan stirs from the debris

BY DAVID USBORNE

SIX DAYS after the partial collapse of a giant scaffolding tower on a new skyscraper in the beart of Manhattan's theatre district, New York City succeeded yesterday in reopening the major arteries of Broadway and Sixth Avenue.

Chaos has reigned across Midtown since early last Tuesday wben parts of the tower peeled away from the 50-storey building that is to be the new bome of the Condé Nast magazine empire. Wreckage showered the area and crashed through the roof of a nearby hotel, killing one woman.

The accident has been a disaster for local businesses as well as for residents who were forced to evacuate their homes. A national animal rights group was planning to sue the city because residents were not allowed to rescue their pets.

One high-profile victim is the adjacent Roundabout Theater Company, whose hit production of *Cabaret* has been cancelled since the accident.

Yesterday's partial reopening of the area followed a weekend of surgery on the unstable scaffolding tower. Engineers sheathed it in nylon netting to cootain debris that might fall.

Hoping to assuage the anger of animal rights groups, the city authorities announced they had rescued four cats, two ferrets, a guinea pig, a cockatiel, a gerbil and a pair of goldfish. Four cats were still missing.

The cause is not yet known, with speculabon that at least four bolts fastening the tower to the skyscraper were missing, either worked loose or removed by construction workers.

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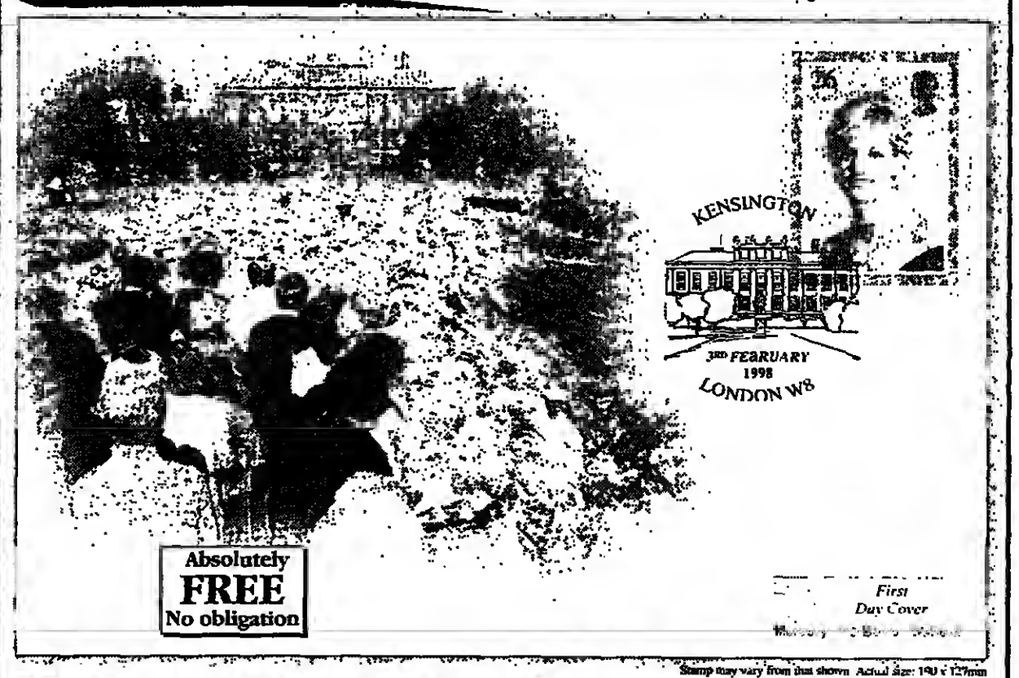

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THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 28 July 1998

Opposition suspects foul play over Cambodia poll

BY KER MUNTHIT
in Phnom Penh

CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS postponed the release yesterday of preliminary results from parliamentary elections, raising fears that delays may lead to the figures being altered in favour of the current ruler, Hun Sen.

More than 90 minutes after the results from the weekend vote were due to be announced, election officials said incomplete documents and communications problems had forced an overnight delay until today.

"The results are not clear enough to be released," said Samraing Kimsain, of the National Election Committee, which is dominated by Hun Sen's supporters. "We want to wait for more clear information."

A big victory by Hun Seo's Cambodian People's Party might bring a more stable government to the country. But if the result is not accepted by the opposition, or by the millions of voters who queued on Sunday to cast their ballots, the outcome could simply be more turmoil for a nation that has suffered 30 years of civil war and the Khmer Rouge genocide of the late 1970s.

Few independent election observers predicted that any of the three major parties contesting the poll would win an outright majority of the 122 seats at stake in the National Assembly.

One opposition leader, Sam Rainsy, said the delay raised fears that that appeared to be Hun Sen's aim. "They want to buy time, they want to arrange the result of the election," he said.

Forty nations have sent 678 observers to monitor the elections. Last week, the International Observers Group disappointed the opposition by saying it would be prepared to endorse a result that was "broadly representative of the will of the Cambodian people". That statement, it was felt, fell short of an international commitment to ensuring that the election was "free and fair".

All three major parties claimed sweeping victories as members reported results from various locations yesterday. However, the violence-marred election campaign and Hun Sen's steps to pack key agencies with his backers had raised expectations that the final figures would give him victory.

Mr Rainsy, a popular former finance minister, had said earlier that Hun Sen's party was the clear loser in the election, according to the results that his activists had obtained as ballots were counted.

In 1993, Hun Sen's chief rival, Prince Ranariddh won the United Nations sponsored elections, backed by 20,000 peacekeepers. Hun Sen refused to accept the result and threatened to start a civil war. As a result he was able to force his way into a co-premiership. The tense arrangement collapsed last year when he sent tanks into the streets to depose Prince Ranariddh. Since then he has been Cambodia's sole Prime Minister.

The new elections were called in an attempt to restore international legitimacy and aid, but the opposition was denied access to the media, party workers were killed and voters were intimidated.

Soldiers pull out of East Timor

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Dili

INDONESIA IS planning to withdraw 1,000 of its troops from East Timor today in a move that may turn out to mark the beginning of the end of Indonesia's 23-year occupation.

More than two decades of rule from Jakarta have done nothing to diminish the feeling that this is an occupied island, where the occupiers can only sustain their rule with the presence of an estimated 15,000 troops. Further troop withdrawals are promised.

There is a sense of endgame. After weeks of demonstrations, an uneasy stand-off witb the army, a mysterious series of night-time raids and a flurry of diplomatic activity, Dili, the capital of East Timor, is suspiciously calm.

The troops are resolutely keeping off the streets, and the leaders of the movement for independence from Indonesia are urging their supporters to avoid confrontations.

"Within three to four months there have to be some concrete solutions," says Anteiro Bendita Da Silva, who has emerged as the main student leader.

"If nothing happens, I'm afraid there will be a huge number of demonstrations. Maybe we will occupy the Governor's office and wait until a solution comes about.

"Expectations are very high. That needs to be taken into consideration."

In the Indonesia capital, Jakarta, the government of BJ Habibie is again saying that the status of the former Portuguese colony cannot be changed, though a limited form of autonomy has been put on the table for negotiation.

The rumour in Dili, unconfirmed by officials, is that senior pro-independence campaigners are in Jakarta for secret talks. They have little scope for compromise, because popular sentiment in East Timor is running high against the autonomy offer.

"It's degrading," says Mr Da Silva. "We didn't beg for our freedom. You (the Indonesians) can't give us independence, you just get out."

Yet the students are showing restraint. Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo, a Nobel laureate and the spiritual leader of the majority Catholic population, is also telling the people to avoid provocation and stay off the streets.

"We are really looking for a negotiated settlement," says Father Filomeno Jacob. He believes the way the people have listened to their leaders' calls for a withdrawal from the streets "is a sign of bow seriously the people take the instructions of their leadership".

Ten days ago, Jamsheed Marker, the United Nations special envoy on East Timor, made a four-hour visit to the island for discussions with local Indonesian officials and Timorese leaders. He avoided a longer stay as be feared becoming the focus of pro-independence protests like those that erupted during a European Union delegation visit earlier in the month.

The Marker talks are likely to pave the way for a New York meeting betweeo the foreign ministers of Indonesia and Portugal, the former colonial power, early next mooth.

Mr Da Silva insists that there can be oo compromise on a referendum, whicb would almost certainly result in an overwbelming vote for independence.

He realises that a referendum cannot be called immediately, hut insists on the installation of a transitional government, the release of the guerrilla leader Xanana Gusmao, the installation of a UN Human Rights Commission representative in Dili to prevent further human rights abuses, the establishment of an Indonesian-Portuguese committee to negotiate East Timor's status and the withdrawal of the Indonesian army.

These terms, particularly the withdrawal of Indonesian forces, are not acceptable to Jakarta, but on the ground in East Timor the government's authority is slowly fading. Mr Da Silva says a dialogue with the military has been established.

"In a sense it's all over," says Fr Filomeno. "They have a choice, they have the power of arms to stay and keep military control but they will face continual passive and active resistance. It's far better for them to let East Timor go."

In Dili it is business as usual. The resistance is biding its time. The government is keeping its bead down and the very poor people of this dirt-poor island are being given time to focus on the increasingly difficult task of making a living.

Nobody expects the calm to last.

Soldiers carrying sandbags to strengthen the banks of the Jingiang River in south China's Hubei province, one of the worst-hit flood areas AP

Flood alert as Yangtze wreaks havoc

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

CHINA'S BADLY flooded central provinces are braced today for a new crest of water travelling down the Yangtze that will inundate parts of the river where levels are already at 44-year record highs. Some 1,200 people have died in this year's floods, and nearly 2 million military and civilian personnel are manning the 3,600km of dykes along the swollen waterway.

The rising waters may force the government to save key industrial and agricultural areas this week by blowing up some of tbe levees, which would cause a devastating run-off of floodwater on to vast tracts of land.

Tens of thousands of people living in the flood plain around Dongting Lake, in Hunan province, are being evacuated in case officials opt for this last-resort option.

Several dykes have already broken near Dongting Lake and local flood-control authorities said they were "preparing for the worst". Television footage last night showed a steady procession of people with sandbags still fortifying the embankment of the rain-swollen lake, which would normally drain into the Yangtze.

Disaster relief equipment, including 400 rubber rafts, 800,000 sandbags and 240,000 square metres of sheeting, has been sent to Hunan already, the Xinhua news agency reported. Rains have pushed 3,600km of mud and stone dykes to breaking-point in the Yangtze basin. Inspectors have found 1,000 weak points along levees in Hubei, and sandbags have been stacked over a metre high along a 240km section.

Downstream, oo Saicheng Lake, near Jiujiang, in Jiangxi province, 100m of dykes have crumbled and more may go, despite repair work by thousands of citizens and paramilitary troops.

Water levels are at their highest yet along 290km of the Yangtze, but more rainstorms in the upper reaches of the river mean that the worst may be to come.

The central industrial city of Wuhan has been extremely badly hit because of extraordinarily heavy downpours which totalled 65cm of rain last week. Sbould the city's levees along the Yangtze be breached, the result could be disastrous.

Navigation along the river has been stopped both for safety and preventive reasons. Around Dongting Lake, shipping was suspended to prevent any extra stress on flood barriers.

A ban remains in effect at the site of the Three Gorges Dam, near Yichang city, where floodwaters are channelled through a canal around the side of the construction site.

Some 170,000 ferry passengers have had to be taken off boats and moved to safe ground in recent days. The river at Jiujiang is expected to reach the top of levees in two or three days.

Farther downstream, Jiangsu province has begun evacuating people living on islands in the Yangtze in anticipation of the flood crest.

Flooding has been blamed for 22 deaths around Jiujiang.

Party puritans pull plug on Chinese rock star

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

IT WAS supposed to be China's answer to Woodstock, an open-air, all-night rave featuring the country's best-known rock star, Cui Jian, and bands such as Cold-Blooded Animal and Overload.

But China's cultural cadres decided it was not to be. At the last minute, even after a switch in the proposed venue, the inaugural Peking Summer Music Festival was banned.

Organisers said yesterday nearly 500 tickets at 200 yuan (£15) each had been sold for the Saturday night concert by the time the axe fell. "The government stopped it," said one of the organisers.

The main problem appeared to be the star attraction, Cui Jian, one of whose songs, "Nothing to My Name", became an anthem for the pro-democracy student demonstrators in June 1989 after the singer gave a concert in Tiananmen Square.

Cui carried on giving big concerts in China until 1992, but Saturday would have been the first officially sanctioned, large-scale live public performance by the 36-year-old father of Chinese rock for about five years.

The star also has difficulty getting access to the airwaves; only one radio show in China is currently playing music from his latest album, The Impotent Strength. He does, however, occasionally play unofficially to a packed, smaller audience at one of Peking's popular bars, the CD Café.

It was hoped that the Peking Summer Music Festival would pass off smoothly this year and then become an annual event.

But the organisers did not bargain for difficulties with the government. The original venue was Yanxi Lake Park in Huairou, a town under the Peking municipality best-known for hosting the 1995 United Nations World Women's Conference.

"When we started, Huairou county was very interested," said the organiser, who preferred not to be quoted by name. "We had permission from the Huairou coonty cultural bureau for a festival in the park." The programme offered "natural setting, mountains and forest, horse-back riding and shooting", as well as a DJ playing "rock, reggae, afro, hip hop, and acid jazz", half a dozen rock bands and a rave party from 1am until dawn.

But then the long arm of the Peking culture bureau got involved, and warned Huairou off staging the event. So the organisers switched to Yangliuqing Forest Park, just outside Tianjin. On Friday night, however, the Tianjin cultural bureau told the organisers that the national Ministry of Culture had banned the concert. "It is very hard to put on the concert because the main figure is Cui Jian," the organiser said. A rock concert was beld earlier tbis year in Zbengzhou, in Henan province, but Cui did not perform there. Yet several Peking newspapers have been free to write about the event, and about Cui's new album. One song features this appropriate lyric: "Are you occupied with nothing? Do you need a shock?

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Junta holds Suu Kyi in car for days

BY TOM RAUM
in Manila

THE US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, yesterday denounced the military-ruled government of Burma and said the United States would hold it "directly responsible" for the health and welfare of the Burmese Nobel laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, who was detained en route to a meeting.

"I just wanted to make quite clear how we deplore the government of Burma's refusal to allow members of the National League for Democracy, a legal political party, to travel freely," Ms Albright said.

The Secretary of State was attending an Asian regional summit in the Philippines.

Ms Suu Kyi, 53, the winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, beads Burma's pro-democracy party, the National League for Democracy. She was stopped by police last Friday while driving to a meeting with NLD members and, as Ms Albright spoke, was preparing to spend her fourth night trapped in her car.

Ms Suu Kyi was stopped 32 miles from the capital while driving to Bassein, 100 miles west of Rangoon.

The police refused to let her proceed and she has refused to return to the capital. She, a colleague and two drivers have already spent three nights in the car.

A government officer said he believed Ms Suu Kyi had enough food and water to spend a week in the car. A government spokesman called the episode a publicity stunt and said Ms Suu Kyi was being helped by Western embassies.

Aung San Suu Kyi: Held on way to meeting

"The NLD leadership has colluded with some Western embassies in Rangoon," the military government said in a statement.

Ohn Gyaw, Burma's Foreign Minister, yesterday insisted that "nothing will happeo to her".

The country's military government came to power in 1988 after violently crushing a nationwide democracy uprising. The junta ignored the results of a 1990 election that the democracy league won by a landslide.

Ms Suu Kyi has called on the military to allow the parliament elected in that poll to convene by next month, a request to which the military has not responded.

CITY 2000

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We window shopped in the largest city in the world, sent virtual postcards from LA then relaxed with Net Girl, the essential premier online magazine.
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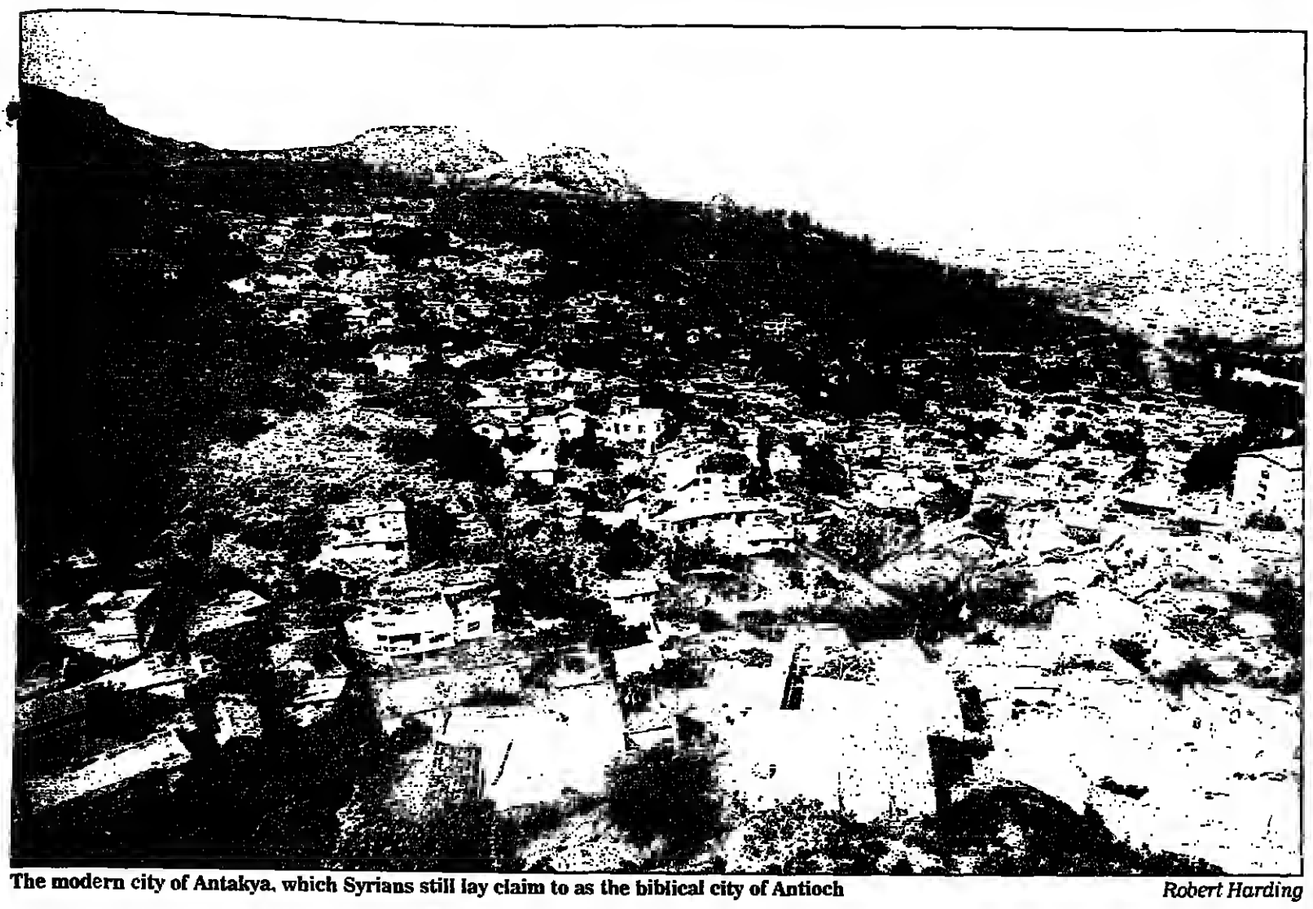

The modern city of Antakya, which Syrians still lay claim to as the biblical city of Antioch *Robert Harding*

Turks defiant as Syria covets 'stolen' territory

BY ROBERT FISK
in Beirut

"THOSE WHO have their eyes fixed on Turkish territory are suffering from blindness," the Turkish prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, thundered the other day. "Not even a square centimetre of this country will be taken from it."

You might think Mr Yilmaz was talking about the Kurdish demand for an independent state in present-day Turkey – or even Armenia's irredentist claim to the lands from which its people were driven by the Turks in the century's first holocaust. But no, Mr Yilmaz was showing proof of Turkey's fear of Syria.

The story goes back to the eve of the Second World War, when France, in a desperate but equally pathetic attempt to bring Ankara in on the Allied side against Germany in the war, handed the north-western Syrian city of Alexandretta and its surrounding governorate to the Turks.

Preoccupied with the coming catastrophe, Europe gave little thought to the effect on the Arabs of this grovelling territorial compromise in 1939, just as it cared little about the consequences for the Arabs of the foundation of Israel nine years later. But of course the Syrians did not forget.

They have never officially given up their claim to the land of Alexandretta, named Iskenderun by the Turks, nor its ancient Biblical city of Antioch. Every evening on Syrian television, the local weather programme shows a city in the north-west of the country called Alexandretta, inside the frontiers of Syria.

Locally produced maps, printed in association with Oxford University Press, also show Alexandretta, Antioch and the town of Suweydiyah firmly inside Syria, a mere dotted line representing the real border that cuts Syria off from its former possessions.

Almost two decades ago, the then Syrian foreign minister, Abdul-Halim Khaddam (now a vice-president), let it be known that Syria would not forget its "other" lost territory, now the Turkish province of Hatay, once the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights had been recovered.

Mr Yilmaz made his remarks in a ceremony to mark the French handover of Alexandretta to the Turks 59 years ago – France was then the League of Nations mandate power in the Levant – but his anger was caused by more recent events. Turkey is convinced that Syria continues to support the Communist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas, with whom it is fighting a cruel civil war in south-eastern Turkey, burning villages and torturing and executing suspects without any form of trial.

Syria believes Turkey's new alliance with Israel has allowed Israeli fighter aircraft to fly along Syria's northern border – and to the north-east of Syria, along Turkey's new "security zone" in northern Iraq.

Turkey regards Syria's claim to Alexandretta as mischief-making. From Syria's perspective, it is just one more piece of land which has been stolen from it since 1920. In the aftermath of the 1914-18 war, France separated Lebanon from Syria. In 1939, it gave Alexandretta to Turkey. Then in 1967, Israel occupied – and subsequently annexed – the Golan Heights. France carved off Lebanon to satisfy its Lebanese Christian Maronite allies. Israel captured Golan in a war. But France's "gift" of north-western Syria to Turkey was handed over to the Turks without the slightest thought for the Syrians, or for the city's indigenous population.

In 1921, there were only 87,000 Turks amid a population of 220,000. But after a referendum in which Turkish peasants were trucked into the city, a 63 per cent Turkish population was announced in 1938, its fate sealed in a subsequent Franco-Turkish Treaty of Friendship. Arabs had boycotted the elections.

All foreign Christian institutions in the new Iskenderun were closed down; the Turks bought the French missionary hospital and about 14,000 Armenians, many of them survivors of the Turkish genocide against their people 24 years earlier, fled to Lebanon, where they created an entirely new city at Aanjar, in the Bekaa Valley, complete with Armenian churches and Armenian-language schools.

As for Mr Yilmaz, he says Turkey knows that "those neighbours who don't want a strong and prosperous Turkey in the region give their support to separatist organisations", a less than subtle reference to Syria's relations with the Kurds.

From the French, now Syria's principal allies in Europe, there comes no comment. After all, they tried to buy Turkey in 1939 and failed. Turkey did, of course, join the Allied cause against Nazi Germany – but only when Hitler's Reich was in ashes in 1945.

How to survive the fruits of the forest

STREET LIFE
SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

IN THE Children's Park next to Samotechny Lane, a young woman was rooting around under a tree. At first, I thought she had lost her keys or something. But then I realised she was looking for mushrooms.

It's not a good idea, really, in central Moscow, which must have one of the highest concentrations of lead anywhere in the world. Probably she had no means of getting out into the countryside. And Russians are so obsessed with mushrooms that they will hunt for them even in the inner city if they have no alternative.

This summer there is a superabundance of mushrooms in Russia. Old ladies are standing at metro stations, selling them by the basket.

I did not really register this until Oleg, one of my neighbours, rang to tell me it was a record year. With typical Russian delight in doom-mongering, he added: "It's a bad sign. A glut of mushrooms means famine and war."

It is true, as old people will tell you, that there were a lot of mushrooms in the forests the summer before the Nazis invaded in 1941. But weather could have as much to do with it this year as impending war. Russians often say corrupt police or drunken husbands are as common as "mushrooms after rain".

You could express that the other way round and say that, after rain, mushrooms are as plentiful as politicians' promises. After all, this has been a particularly humid summer, ideal weather for fungi.

Strange as it may seem, in my 10 years in Russia, I have never practised the national sport of mushroom-hunting. I was afraid of picking the wrong variety and poisoning myself, or picking the right fungus but discovering too late that pollution had made it mutate. "Family killed by mutant mushrooms", is one of the common summer-season headlines that can be found in the Russian press.

However, when my old friend Zina, a geologist knowledgeable about nature in general, suggested we go out into the woods just north of Moscow to look for mushrooms, I thought I should risk it at last.

Russians love and fear the forest in equal measure, much as the English do the sea, and you cannot say you have had the full Russian experience until you have been on a real mushroom safari.

Only a few kilometres outside Moscow, the woods are as dense as the Amazon rainforest and you can easily get lost if you do not keep track of the paths you have taken.

The air is thick with mosquitoes and it is advisable to cover your head to protect yourself from "Siberian klesh" (ticks) which, if you are very unlucky, can give you meningitis.

In the mixed birch and pine woods where we rambled, we discovered dozens of trees that had been felled by the June hurricane, their trunks charred by the lightning.

And what struck the eye first were not the shy and retiring mushrooms but glowing berries that seemed to have "Eat Me" written all over them.

Even expensive varieties of mushrooms can be found in plentiful supply in Russian forests *AP*

"You can eat those," said Zina, pointing to some bright red berries that looked like garden raspberries, only they were shinier and had a sour taste closer to cranberry. They were "kostyanika" (seed berries), not to be confused with poisonous "volchya yagodi" (wolf berries) that seemed to me to be identical, except the bushes on which they grew were higher.

"Oh it's not just that," said Zina. "You can feel that the one gives out good energy while the other exudes something nasty. The same applies to mushrooms."

I felt very dubious about this "new age" or rather age-old approach, though gradually even my stunted animal instincts began to awake and I somehow knew, without having to be told, that we would not find any mushrooms as long as we were hacking our way through nettles.

We found them instead under birch trees: carpets of brown speckled "tiger mukhomor" or poisonous toadstools. "They could be deadly for children or make an adult very sick," warned Zina. But she was excited, because wherever toadstools pop up, the nutritious "whites" that go into home-made Russian mushroom soup are never far away.

Sure enough, we soon came upon the good fungi. Zina cut them very carefully with a knife to preserve the ground mould for next season.

We had less luck in our hunt for the many different varieties of small mushrooms that can be salted and saved up for winter, to be eaten with potatoes or as a snack accompaniment to vodka. Neither were there any "lisichki" (little foxes), which the French call chanterelles and serve at exorbitant prices in the best restaurants.

The reason was that hordes of poor grannies, knowing mushrooms contain as much protein as meat, had already been through the forest like vacuum cleaners. We bought from them instead at the nearest metro station and had a mushroom feast.

Days later, I am still alive to tell the tale. Oleg had said mushrooms portend a cataclysm and I was neurotic about mutants. But so far we remain at peace and have not yet been taken over by aliens.

HELEN WOMACK

Iran cracks down on sex pests

POLICE in the Iranian capital, Tehran, arrested 200 men on charges of harassing women after they were caught propositioning them from their cars.

The city's deputy police commander, Farhad Nazari, was quoted in the *Kayhan* newspaper as saying the campaign was aimed at fighting "moral crimes". Whistling at and propositioning women from cars is a common sight in parts of Tehran. The moderate *Tous* daily criticised the crackdown, saying it was causing traffic jams and annoyance for Tehran residents. But the campaign may bring some relief for Tehran women, who have been complaining about the increasing number of drivers approaching them. *Tous* said police buses stationed at busy crossroads waiting to take away detained drivers were causing traffic jams. – *Reuters*

THE INDEPENDENT
PHOTOGRAPH OFFER

Steam Train by Tom Pilston *Ref. 00101*

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IN BRIEF

Lebed takes aim at Kremlin

ALEXANDER LEBED, governor of the Krasnoyarsk region of Siberia, again hinted at his presidential aspirations, saying he would run if life in Russia did not improve. The former general has repeatedly said he would not run unless he solved the problems of the vast Krasnoyarsk region, where he was elected governor in May. Many observers consider the governorship a stepping-stone to presidential elections in 2000.

Porn on Dutch ministry network

A DUTCH Justice Ministry official has been dismissed for downloading pornography from the Internet and distributing it through the ministry's network. A spokesman said the investigation was not linked to the Zandvoort child-pornography scandal.

Northern Cyprus seeks currency

THE TURKISH Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, urged his breakaway enclave to assert its independence by establishing its own currency, which could be a version of the Turkish lira. Northern Cyprus declared its statehood in 1983 but is recognised only by Ankara.

Angola moves closer to war

ANGOLA is on the brink of renewed war, with government forces and the opposition Unita reinforcing positions and recruiting fighters, diplomats said. The government has deployed 18,000 troops, while Unita is said to have intensified attacks on civilian targets.

Blaze threatens Mt Olympus

FIREFIGHTERS struggled to control a forest fire scorching the slopes of Mount Olympus, legendary home of the ancient gods. Dozens of other fires also burned through brush and woodlands around Greece in the most devastating season of blazes in decades.

MILES KINGTON

"There is an extraordinary trial going on in the High Court, which could endanger the entire existence of the Church of England"

— THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 2

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BUSINESS

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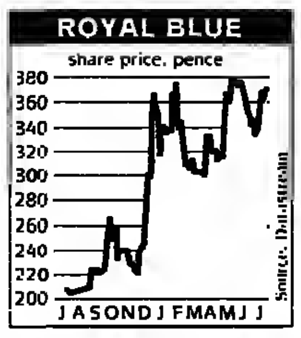
BRIEFING

Japanese cabinet to be named

THE NEW Japanese cabinet is to be announced today, but it is beginning to seem likely that the key post of finance minister will go to either the former prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, or his colleague Koichi Kato. The candidate the markets would like, the reformist Seiroku Kajiyama, is apparently less likely to be chosen. He is in favour of more drastic reform of the banking system and is accordingly unpopular with financial and business leadership - though not with the markets.

Hamish McRae, page 19

Software boost at Royalblue



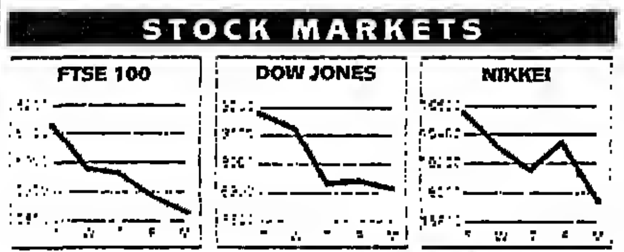
ROYALBLUE, the financial trading and helpdesk software group, expects to benefit from the proposed alliance between the London Stock Exchange and Deutsche Börse, its German rival. John Hamer, the chief executive, said the company had held talks with executives at both exchanges about developing a common trading platform. Royalblue was a major supplier of software for SETS, the stock exchange's order-driven trading system which was introduced last year. Mr Hamer said a move to a new platform would require most customers to upgrade their systems. *Investment Column, page21*

Alert over insurance brokers

THE TREASURY yesterday announced it was abolishing the body which gives insurance brokers professional status - prompting fears of a deterioration in consumer confidence in the industry. Helen Liddell, economic secretary to the Treasury, said the government would repeal the Insurance Brokers Registration Act, set up by the last Labour government in an effort to raise standards in insurance broking.

The act was widely perceived as ineffectual and the body which registered brokers, the IBRC, will now be abolished. Over 900 brokers who do investment business will now be regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

STOCK MARKETS

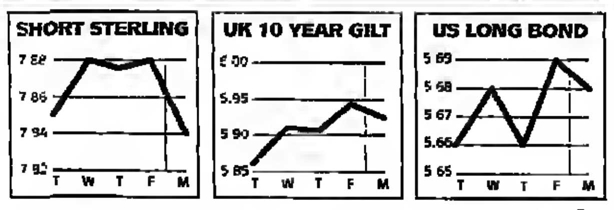


Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5836.10	-56.20	-0.95	6183.70	4552.50	3.41
FTSE 250	5497.40	-23.20	-0.42	5970.90	4428.30	3.07
FTSE 350	2812.20	-24.30	-0.86	2949.10	2141.80	3.35
FTSE All Share	2737.81	-23.11	-0.84	2866.52	2106.59	3.34
FTSE SmallCap	2506.40	-13.60	-0.54	2793.80	2162.10	3.19
FTSE Fledgling	1383.50	-6.50	-0.47	1517.10	1225.20	2.44
FTSE AIM	1079.10	-10.40	-0.96	1146.90	965.90	1.20
FTSE EBLOC 100	1072.81	-20.25	-1.85			
Dow Jones	8910.07	-20.60	-0.23	9367.84	6971.32	1.54
Nikkei	15944.36	-417.53	-2.55	20698.67	14489.21	0.96
Hang Seng	7984.43	-273.03	-3.31	16820.31	7351.68	5.13
Dax	5885.00	-150.28	-2.49	6217.83	3487.24	2.71

INTEREST RATES

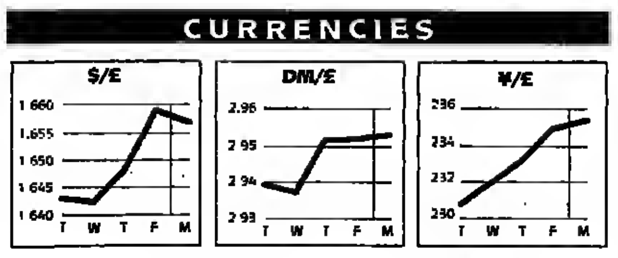


at 5pm

MONEY MARKET RATES / BOND YIELDS

Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.80	0.74	7.94	0.44	5.93	-1.00	5.56	-1.28
US	5.69	-0.03	5.81	-0.16	5.45	-0.68	5.68	-0.72
Japan	0.67	0.04	0.68	-0.08	1.62	-0.81	2.17	-0.78
Germany	3.53	0.35	3.80	0.34	4.65	-0.90	5.28	-0.97

CURRENCIES



POUND	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago	DOLLAR	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6568	-0.24c	1.6315	Sterling	0.6036	+0.09p	0.6129
D-Mark	2.9537	+0.08pf	3.0130	D-Mark	1.7831	+0.47pf	1.8465
Yen	235.65	+¥1.72	192.40	Yen	142.22	+¥1.32	117.82
£ index	105.50	0.00	106.20	$ index	112.80	0.00	105.20

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next figs
Brent Oil ($)	12.46	0.14	18.87	GDP	115.40	2.60	112.48	Aug
Gold ($)	290.45	-1.05	326.00	RPI	163.40	3.70	157.57	Jul
Silver ($)	5.63	-0.05	4.34	Base Rates			7.50	6.75

*at 5pm

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia ($)	2.6108	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.31
Austria (schillings)	20.09	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2230
Belgium (francs)	59.08	New Zealand ($)	3.0910
Canada ($)	2.4227	Norway (krone)	12.15
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8368	Portugal (escudos)	289.80
Denmark (krone)	10.96	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0335
Finland (markka)	8.7463	Singapore ($)	2.6908
France (francs)	9.5916	Spain (pesetas)	242.31
Germany (marks)	2.8706	South Africa (rands)	9.8521
Greece (drachma)	473.80	Sweden (krone)	12.72
Hong Kong ($)	12.43	Switzerland (francs)	2.4155
Ireland (punts)	1.1363	Thailand (bahts)	61.24
Indian (rupees)	64.75	Turkey (lirasi)	430738
Israel (shekels)	5.5981	USA ($)	1.6174
Italy (lira)	2832		
Japan (yen)	230.67		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.5260		
Malta (lira)	0.6236		

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Telecoms fever as wave of mega-mergers beckons

By Peter Thal Larsen in London and David Usborne in New York

THE TELECOM industry around the world was in upheaval yesterday as it digested the implications of the $10bn (£6bn) alliance between British Telecom and AT&T, announced on Sunday, while Wall Street geared up for the possibility of yet another mega-merger between two US telecom groups.

In London, shares in BT jumped 43p to a new all-time high of 868p as investors welcomed the joint venture with AT&T, seeing the tie-up as an ideal solution to the company's lack of presence in the crucial US market. AT&T shares rose 31 cents to $60.25.

"It's a great deal," said Mark Lambert, telecoms analyst at Merrill Lynch. "BT has enhanced its earnings; it has resolved certain key strategic challenges and it is opening the door to new possibilities."

However, other observers were disappointed that the company had played down hopes of a massive share buyback. BT is due to receive $7bn (£4bn) in cash as payment for its stake in MCI, which is merging with WorldCom.

The alliance puts pressure on Unisource, the alliance of European telecom operators that AT&T is abandoning in favour of linking up with BT. Analysts said the venture – which includes Telia in Sweden, Swisscom in Switzerland and KPN in the Netherlands – would have to find a new partner in the US or fall apart.

Meanwhile, in the Far East, Singapore Telecom and KDD (the Japanese long-distance group) were assessing the implications of AT&T's imminent withdrawal from their World Partners alliance.

KDD said it was due to start talking to BT and AT&T about distributing the new venture's services in Japan. However, a spokesman for the company stressed that KDD had not been invited to join the alliance.

On Wall Street, investors turned their attention to reports of a possible mega-marriage between Bell Atlantic, the New York-based local phone company, and GTE to create a new powerhouse spanning one-third of US local connections.

A combination of the two companies would once again transform the US telecommunications scene. The new company, which could be valued at $55bn, would be second only to AT&T in punch and scope in the US telephone industry.

Both companies had been named as potential partners for British Telecom before its alliance with AT&T was unveiled.

Sources cited in the *Wall Street Journal* yesterday said the talks were still ongoing between the two companies and could yet unravel. Such a merger would inevitably draw close attention of competition regulators in Washington. The negotiations were also reported by *USA Today*.

If the talks are indeed consummated, the deal would represent the first merger of one of the US Baby Bells with a long-distance carrier since deregulation of the US telecoms sector two years ago.

Together with Bell Atlantic, whose territory extends down the eastern seaboard from Maine to Washington DC, GTE would control some 62 million local connections, representing about a third of the entire local US market. A merger would set them up for battle with SBC Communications of Texas which is finalising its recent deal to acquire Ameritech.

"It would be no surprise to me," commented Susan Byrne of Westwood Management in New York yesterday. "Everyone in the industry is going to have to dance pretty quickly. And because of the AT&T-BT alliance everyone is going to have to suit up fast".

Government regulators may raise objections, however, because under current rules, Bell Atlantic is barred from entering the long distance business at least until its own territory on the eastern seaboard is considered open to unfettered local competition.

Revenue may fine 400,000 for late returns

By Andrew Verity

INLAND REVENUE yesterday confirmed it will make a windfall of £120m in fines from taxpayers who failed to return their self-assessment tax forms on time.

Figures released by the Revenue show it fined 775,000 taxpayers for missing the 31 January deadline for returning tax forms under the new self-assessment regime introduced last year.

The errant taxpayers will pay £100 each, netting the Exchequer £77.5 million. But in spite of the initial fine, well over 400,000 still have to return their forms.

Hundreds of thousands more forms – first issued in the spring of 1997 – are still collecting dust on taxpayers' shelves ahead of the second deadline, 31 July.

Unless there is a last-minute rush, more fines will be sent out, netting a further £40m.

"We anticipate sending out 400,000 more fines for missing deadlines for the second time," a spokeswoman said.

The size of the Revenue's windfall will anger tax agents who have been asked to forgive the Revenue for a series of giant blunders in connection with the self-assessment system.

In the worst example, the Revenue told tens of thousands of people they owed tax when, in fact, the Revenue owed them money.

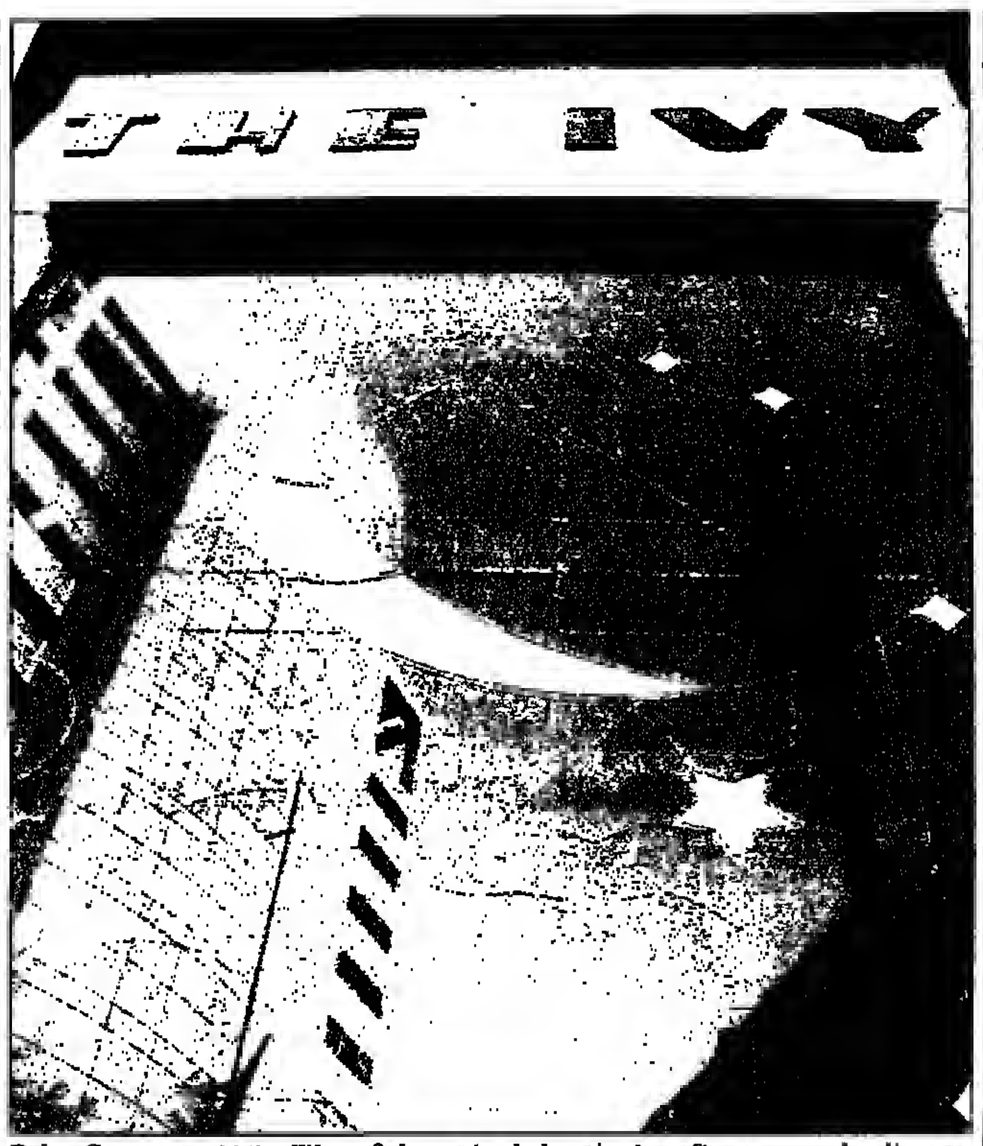
Others who owed tax were told they were in credit.

The blunder caused the Revenue to apologise to tax agents and reassess its computer systems, which had effectively mistaken the box for tax credits with a nearby box for debits.

The July 31 deadline also applies to payments on account for the tax year of 1997-98.

If these are not paid on time, taxpayers will be hit by a surcharge of 5 per cent of tax owing – as calculated by the Revenue – plus interest on the outstanding amount.

The figure of £120m emerged as the Revenue kicked off a second publicity campaign to raise awareness of self-assessment, this time for the year 1998-99.



Belgo Group saw 20.5 million of shares traded yesterday after announcing it was in talks with Caprice Holdings, owners of Le Caprice and The Ivy restaurants

No float, says Littlewoods as profits soar

By Nigel Cope
Associate City Editor

LITTLEWOODS, the family controlled retail and football pools empire, said a stock market flotation was still not on the agenda yesterday in spite of record profits, boosted by a strong performance from its home shopping interests.

Commenting on the intentions of the 32 members of the Moores family, which owns 100 per cent of the business, James Ross, Littlewoods chairman, said: "The family has not raised the issue. There is no intention to float."

In addition to returning £208m to the family shareholders in February after the sale of 19 stores to Marks & Spencer as well as its Oxford Circus store, Littlewoods has settled long-running litigation with three former directors. The settlements with Sir Desmond Pitcher, Barry Dale and Prodip Guha, the former chairman, chief executive and deputy chief executive, were not disclosed.

Mr Ross said the strategy was to continue with the group's five-year plan started three years ago. It remains committed to its high street stores business in spite of failing to find a buyer for the main chain last year, he said. The company is testing new-look formats in four of its stores. Two are trading under the Littlewoods name with another two under the name Berketex, which Littlewoods has been using as a brand of clothing.

However, Barry Gibson, chief executive, said it was unlikely that the group would decide to jettison the Littlewoods name on the high street.

He was speaking as Littlewoods unveiled a 30 per cent increase in group trading profits to £123m on flat sales of £2.23bn. Home shopping led the way with a 41 per cent rise in profits to £78m, helped by a good contribution from the Index Extra catalogue. Profits at Littlewoods Stores fell by 4 per cent to £28m. The football pools business continues to be affected by the National Lottery. Profits there fell by 10 per cent to £19.7m.

'Name and shame' utilities pay plan

By Michael Harrison

David Jones, chief executive, National Grid: £355,000 pay includes £88,000 bonus (+7 per cent)

Bill Alexander, managing director of Thames Water: £277,000 pay includes £47,000 bonus (+13 per cent)

David Varney, chief executive, BG: £427,000 pay (£245,000 for seven months of 1996)

PRIVATISED UTILITIES are to be forced to spell out how boardroom pay awards are linked to customer performance standards under a "name and shame" scheme unveiled yesterday by the Government.

Gas, water, electricity and telecoms companies will be obliged to say in their annual accounts what the link is, if any, between pay and performance and what weight is given to the achievement of service standards when salary and bonuses are set.

Regulators for each of the industries will also have to write an open letter once a year to the remuneration committees of the privatised utilities setting out how the business has performed and what the consequences are of failing to meet set targets.

However, in what amounts to a defeat for the outgoing President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, the Government has backed away from granting regulators new powers to claw back windfall profits from the privatised utilities.

The new disclosure requirements on pay will cover all price-regulated utilities, meaning that they will also apply to companies like Railtrack and the airports operator BAA.

The changes will require primary legislation, and officials at the Department of Trade and Industry said it hoped to get a slot in the legislative timetable at the earliest opportunity.

In a Green Paper published in March, ministers had proposed the use of "error correction mechanisms" to ensure that customers shared in any gains when utilities benefited from factors outside their control, such as a sharp drop in their own costs.

However, the proposal was widely attacked by business groups, including the Confederation of British Industry, in their replies to the Green Paper. The Government received more than 250 submissions.

In its response the Government said the fundamental system of price control would remain RPI-X, under which annual price rises are kept below the rate of inflation. However, the Government said it would expect the regulators to refine how the RPI-X principle was applied in any "exceptional circumstances".

Regulators will also be urged to take levels of consumer service and satisfaction into account when setting new price caps.

But Mrs Beckett said that, on pay, the Government's message was clear. "It is not the Government's job to set the pay of utility company executives. However, the Government does believe there should be a clearer link between the prices utilities can charge their customers and the service standards they achieve." This should in turn be linked to remuneration levels.

Outlook, page 17

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

The London stock market closed lower yesterday after an afternoon tumble when Wall Street's sluggish opening erased earlier gains.

The blue-chip FTSE 100 index closed down 56.2 to 5836.1, just off its intra-day low, after swinging in a 105-point arc during the day. The smaller cap indexes were also lower with the FTSE 250 ending 23.2 off at 5497.4 and the Small Cap closing 13.6 down to 2506.4.

BT shares had soared following news of its long-awaited tie-up with AT&T. BT closed up 43p at 868p.

Market Report, page 21

NEW YORK

US stocks fell sharply in morning trading with technology issues worst hit amid concerns about lofty valuations, a slowing US economy and the Asia crisis. "The market has been excessive," said Peter Coolidge, a Nasdaq trader at Brean Murray & Co. "Investors can't expect 20 per cent plus returns year after year."

At 17.50 BST, the Dow industrials were off 44 points (0.5 per cent) at 8893, having earlier fallen almost 8p points. The index fell 400 points last week, its worst one-week loss ever.

TOKYO

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 Index fell 2.55 per cent to a one-month low, sending stocks tumbling across much of Asia, as concern spread that the nation's next premier and finance minister will be unable to revive Japan's economy.

The Nikkei fell 417.5 points, closing below the key 16,000-point level at 15,944. Banks such as Sumitomo led the decline, the biggest since April 16 and the fourth in five days. The Japanese yen fell to a two-week low against the dollar, weakening to 142.29 from 141.70 yen in late New York trading on Friday.

HONG KONG

Hong Kong stocks took their biggest tumble in more than a month – driving the Hang Seng index below 8,000 for the first time in six weeks – amid concern a deepening recession will throttle corporate profits.

The 33-stock Hang Seng index fell 273.03 points, or 3.3 points, to 7984.43, led by HSBC Holdings, Hong Kong Telecom and China Telecom (Hong Kong). Hong Kong interest rates rose as the yen weakened.

Cuts at Hong Kong Telecom, page 19

JOHANNESBURG

South African stocks fell for a sixth day as Asian markets fell and the rand's weakness raised concern over high interest rates.

The Johannesburg All-Share Index fell 109.9 points, or 1.57 per cent, to 6883.7, after falling 5.9 per cent last week. The rand ended at 6.2225 after trading at 6.2700 to the dollar in the morning from 6.1850 late Friday.

The rand has fallen as much as 25.7 per cent since 1 May, reaching a record low 6.8000 per dollar on 6 July, pushing up interest rates to help boost the currency.

هكذا من الاصل

Memo to Mandy: Keep your coat on

OUTLOOK

A MEMO to Peter Mandelson, the new President of the Board of Trade, from Michael Scholar, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry:

"Dear Peter, Welcome to your first Ministry. Who's a clever boy then, and still so young! Don't take this personally, but you're not expected to last. No one ever does at the DTI. The last lot got through 13 secretaries of state in 18 years. The way Mr Blair has started, anyone would think he is out to beat the record.

Some departments make a minister's career. Others are political graveyards. We fit into the latter category around here at Victoria Street.

But let's not get too maudlin so soon. May I say that your portrait will make a splendid addition to the exhibition of past Presidents that we have hanging on the eighth floor. I'm sure you've already glanced along the gallery. Some corkers there alright, eh?

John Biffen. Semi-detached, I think it was, and then, oh dear, completely detached. Little Leon Brittan. A clever man but no good with helicopters (or press secretaries for that matter). Lord Young of Graffham. "He brings me solutions", trilled Mrs T, but all he ever brought us was that stupid moniker The Department For Enterprise. Then there was Cecil, ah dear Cecil. He lasted just five months, which is a record even for us (I recall it was a family matter that intruded). And then there was Peter Lilley. A charisma bypass maybe but at least he invented the Lilley Doctrine. Damn me, though, if I can remember what it was.

Even Keith, Norman and the sadly departed Nick didn't last that long. You see the real problem is that there isn't really much to do around here. Take Hezza. He stuck it out for three years (gold watch territory I would say). And yet what is he remembered for? Failing to sell the Post Office, that's what.

Do you get on with your predecessor, Margaret? Somehow I doubt it. (I gather, incidentally, that they are calling her new job a "promotion". What? Minister for the Millennium Bug and keeping the smelly socks in order? Anyway, what will she do after 1 Jan, 2000 eh?).

Personally I rather liked Margaret although she seemed to get up the noses of those American electricity folk and a few business types nearer home. But it was all pretty harmless stuff. What was she always banging on about? Ah yes, that's it. The Three Pillars – Strong Markets, Modern Companies, Enterprising Nation. Well, we can all drink to that.

Perhaps, if I may make so bold, you have something similar in mind? The Three Domes? I expect you've already leafed through the departmental budget. Don't be taken in by that £600m increase in the headline number. It's true, the science budget is going up but I imaging bunsen burners interest you about as much as fish suppers in Hartlepool on a Friday night. No, most of the time you will be doling out compensation to ex-miner's with emphysema or paying for the closure of Dounreay.

One final word of, how can I put it, advice. As our workload is greatly shrunken these days (nothing left to run, you see) we don't encourage early risers. Mr Griffiths will tell you that, on his way out of the door. Good luck!!"

Beckett's muted swansong

AS SWANSONGS GO, the DTI's blueprint for reforming utility regulation is a pretty subdued affair. Four months and 250 responses later, the final version looks even more modest than the original proposals rolled out in March.

Who was it that finally did for the Beckett plan to zap the utilities with her unforgettable Error Correction Mechanism? The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, perhaps? Or was it The Carbon Monoxide and Gas Safety Society. There again, it might have been the Commission On The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain. Have these people got nothing better to do than spend their lives responding to a Green Paper on utility regulation?

Mrs Beckett's desire to embellish existing price controls with measures that would allow the regulators to tax "excess profits" always smacked of a government that did not believe, or understand, how free markets work. Remove the incentive to deliver better service and the result is worse service.

The utilities are still cavilling over how the regulators might choose to interpret their powers to claw back windfall gains in "exceptional circumstances".

But on the subject of boardroom pay – another fat target for Labour – the worst they will have to contend with is public humiliation. The name of the game these days is "name and shame". And so, just like the pension mis-sellers, those utility bosses who pay themselves more than their improved performance warrants will find themselves pilloried in public. (Always supposing, of course, you can get your hands on a set of the regulated accounts).

For a breed that has shown itself to have the thickest of hides and now has the added protection in many cases of overseas ownership, this surely holds no perils. Hitting the utilities where it hurts, in their profit margins, will depend therefore on seizing the moment when it arises. Mr Mandelson has one such opportunity in his sights now that Enron is buying Wessex Water. He should make sure customers get their fair share of the spoils.

Elephants dance the telecom waltz

CAN THE market's reaction to the BT-AT&T deal possibly be rational? A further 5 per cent rise in a share price that is already fully-valued on some counts in response to a promise of jam tomorrow (2002 in fact) is going it some.

But then BT was born aloft yesterday more by a mixture of relief and hope. Relief that after four failed attempts at consummating a US union, this might just be the one that lasts. And hope that the cost-savings and market opportunities that the two partners speak of will materialise in practice.

In must be good news that BT has found a new transatlantic partner after the disappointment of MCI. That said, there will be no exchange of equity to cement this relationship and 50:50 joint ventures can have a habit of falling apart when no-one is in control. Moreover BT and AT&T will have to wait 12 months to see how much the regulators nibble away before the deal is acceptable.

On the plus side, BT and AT&T may escape the kind of culture clash that would have made a full-blown merger with MCI a challenging business to run. If there are two telecoms operators in the world that share common traits, it is BT and AT&T. Both are former bureaucratic monopolies that are adjusting to life in a competitive world. AT&T for all its failings, also has the kind of US presence that BT lacks and needs.

Looked at another way, of course, this could be precisely the wrong reason for getting together. Try as you might, it is difficult to see the as yet unnamed joint venture being as fleet of foot as a WorldCom or a Qwest. Nor will the competition stand still while BT&AT&T conclude their elephant mating ritual.

IN BRIEF

Tarmac wins £100m contract

TARMAC, the construction group, has won a £100m contract to build a power station in Hungary.

Tarmac said TBV Power, its specialist power business, and its partner, Foster Wheeler of Finland, will build a 150-megawatt coal-fired power station for AES Electric, part of the AES Corporation of the US. Work on the site, which is about 150 kilometres north of Budapest, will start in spring 1999 and is due to be completed in 2001.

Receiving end

THE DOWNWARD trend in receiverships could be coming to an end as the economy slows down, according to KPMG's quarterly review of the number of companies going under.

Only the South and the Midlands, during the first half of 1998, recorded receiverships at similar levels to those in the last six months of 1997. Scotland and the North East saw receiverships fall by 39 per cent and 22 per cent respectively. However, the North-west saw an increase of 26 per cent. The manufacturing sectors continued to provide the largest number of business failures, while in retail there was a reduction in the number of receiverships.

Restaurant move

HARVEY NICHOLS yesterday confirmed that it would open its second restaurant in London towards the middle of next year. The fashion retailer also revealed that sales in the first 16 weeks of the financial year were up 2.9 per cent year-on-year. In a statement at its annual meeting, the group said it had taken a lease on an 8,000 square foot property in Leadenhall Street, in the City, which it will convert into a restaurant and bar. It already runs a restaurant at London's Oxo tower.

Railtrack slides

SHARES IN Railtrack slid [illegible] per cent, shedding 77p to end at 1,406p, ahead of the rail consultation document due today. Recent reports have suggested that John Swift, the rail regulator, is concerned that the current pricing formula of RPI minus 2 per cent was based on too generous a return of capital. Reports also suggest he will propose revising the value of Railtrack's asset base and linking access charges to passenger volumes rather than trains. The National Audit Office is also reported to have postponed the publication of its report into Railtrack's flotation, which is expected to be critical, until the autumn.

FSA opens up

THE CITY watchdog, the Financial Services Authority, has set out how it plans to involve consumers and practitioners in its work. The FSA intends to set up consumer panels, a practitioner forum and local town meetings.

News Analysis: Customers join investors in backing international link-up with AT&T

Thumbs up for BT's alliance

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

SHAREHOLDERS IN British Telecom and AT&T yesterday celebrated the two companies' $10bn (£6bn) alliance by pushing up share prices on both sides of the Atlantic. Unusually for such a deal, however, the joint venture also received an unqualified thumbs up from prospective customers.

For telecom managers at large multinational companies, the notion of using one supplier for all their telecom needs has become a bit of a holy grail. While many telecom groups have claimed to offer a "one-stop shop" for a wide range of telecom services: what they eventually supplied turned out to be less comprehensive than what had been promised.

Until now, established telecom carriers have tried to tackle the market through a series of loose alliances. Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and Sprint (the US long-distance carrier) combined to form Global One. A number of European carriers have got together to form Unisource – a venture that, until yesterday, also included AT&T.

In the Far East, AT&T had also linked up with Singapore Telecom and KDD in a venture called World Partners.

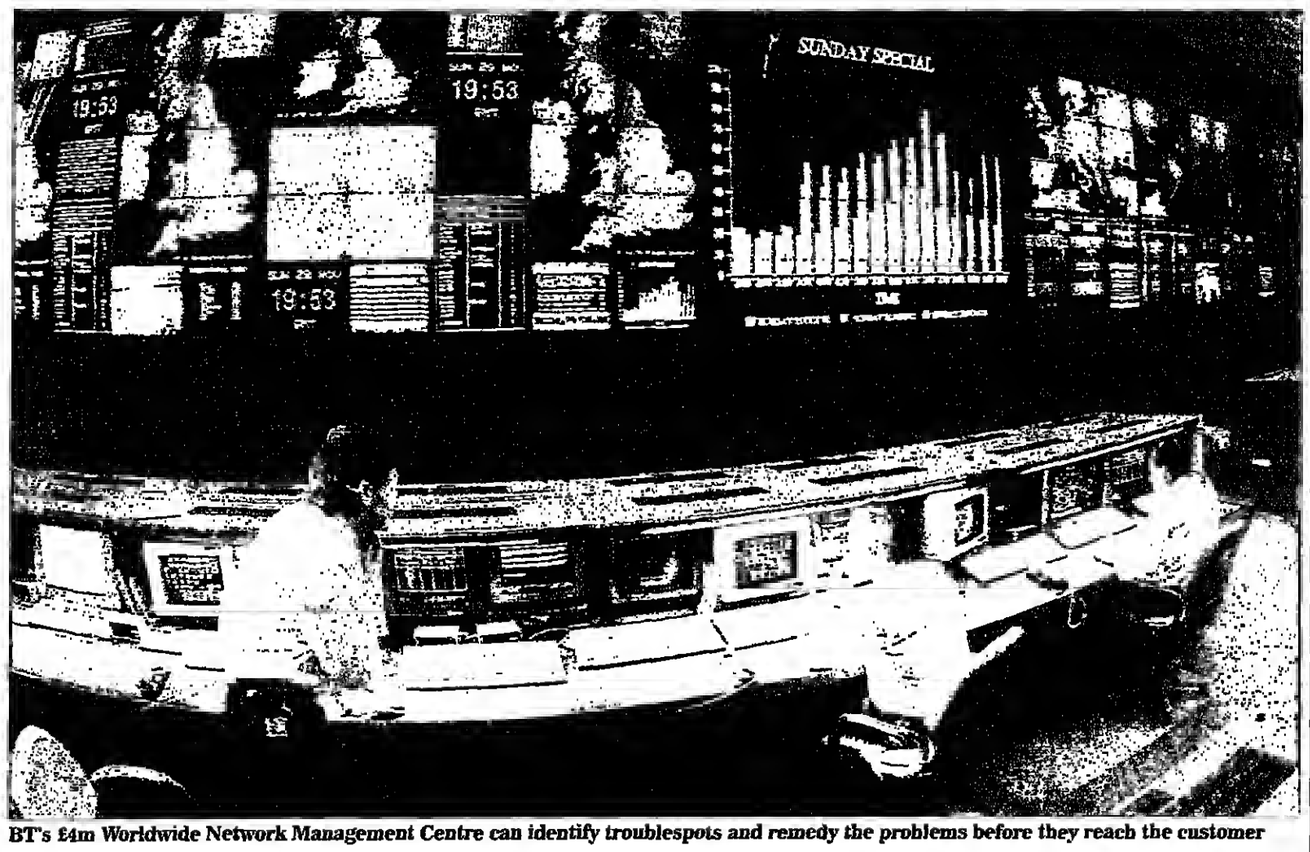
However, the alliances often struggled to put together comprehensive product ranges. They also found it hard to guarantee the consistency of the service.

"Telecom companies talk about end-to-end managed services," says David Harrington, director general of the Telecom Manager's Association, which represents 1,700 companies with combined annual telecom spending of £8.6bn. "They try to act as a one-stop shop, but all too often the guy at the end of the line is a local employee."

"Not until you get an international network which is owned by one organisation do you get end-to-end quality and service standards," he adds.

Reliability is all the more pressing as telecom systems become critical to the way in which large multinational companies operate. Rather than simply use telephone wires for calls, large corporations are increasingly using them to run private cross-border computer networks, email and intranet systems, and multimedia services such as videoconferencing.

Indeed, data traffic generated by faxes, corporate data communications and the internet is set this year to overtake voice traffic for the first time.



BT's £4m Worldwide Network Management Centre can identify troublespots and remedy the problems before they reach the customer

The growth of the internet has been particularly explosive. Experts now reckon that the number of emails sent every day is the same as the total number of emails sent in the whole of 1989.

This growth is set to continue. Unveiling their alliance on Sunday, BT and AT&T published forecasts which showed that the entire international telecoms market, worth $40bn a year today, is likely to increase fivefold to $201bn by the year 2007 (see table).

Over that period, multinational companies are expected to boost their annual telecom spending from $26bn to $116bn.

That growth is behind BT and AT&T's decision to build a network based on internet protocol standards. Rather than devoting an entire line to one call, data traffic can be split into small packages and transmitted quickly and efficiently over fibre-optic cable. In time, all telecom traffic will travel over IP-based networks.

However, BT and AT&T do not have the world to themselves. WorldCom, the upstart US group which last year trumped BT's bid for MCI, is rapidly constructing a global network. Just last week, the company unveiled a European long-distance network linking London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and Frankfurt.

In order to ensure it can offer a comprehensive service, WorldCom eschews alliances with other operators in favour of owning all its own equipment and fibre-optic cable.

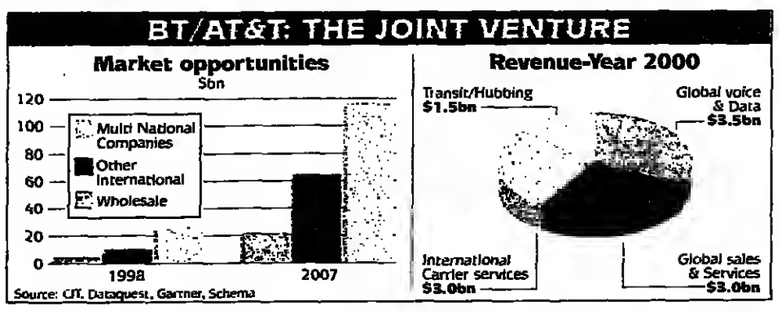
Cable & Wireless, Britain's other major telecom player, is planning to launch similar services following its acquisition of MCI's internet assets for $1.75bn earlier this month.

The question, however, is how profitable these customers will be. Until now, none of the alliances aimed at large multinational customers have made any money. Even Concert, the joint venture between BT and MCI which has been among the most successful in winning new business, is only set to break even this year despite boasting 4,000 customers.

Robin Bosworth, a partner at Schema, the telecommunications consultancy, says many companies have underestimated how expensive supplying international services could be. "It's all in the people and the processes and the tools, not just in the networks," he says.

With a large cost base – the BT-AT&T joint venture will have 5,000 employees – scale becomes all-important. By directing all their international traffic over their combined network, the two companies will benefit from huge economies of scale. Their offer to open the network up to other suppliers as a "carrier's carrier" will bring unit costs down further.

As a result, BT and AT&T reckon their joint venture will make operating profits of $1bn on revenues of $10bn in 2000 - its first full year of operation.



Moreover, experts reckon that the pressure to reduce prices is now easing. "Telecom services are all so cheap but so mission critical that price isn't the determining factor any more – it's more about quality of service," says John McMonigall, a director specialising in telecom investments at Apax, the venture capital group.

All of which sounds promising in theory. In reality, however, BT and AT&T have several important hurdles to jump. First, they have to get the joint venture past demanding regulators in the US and Europe. Then they have to integrate their network management and other computer systems.

This is made all the more complicated by the fact that AT&T's international operations are currently heavily integrated with those of Unisource.

While telecom managers may look forward to the day when they can hand over their entire telecom operation to a single supplier, that day – while perhaps brought a little nearer by BT and AT&T's alliance – is still a couple of years away.

Moscow to raise cash by sale of gas stake

CASH-POOR Russia will sell 5 per cent of Gazprom, the world's largest gas company, but analysts said yesterday that the stake could bring as little as $500m and the company warned the government to be careful, Reuters reports.

Russia's shell-shocked shares market and the complexity of Gazprom's two-tiered shares system could conspire against the sale, approved by presidential decree at the weekend.

President Boris Yeltsin signed a long-awaited decree which would reduce secured government holdings to 35 per cent from 40 per cent of shares. That would leave up to 5.87 per cent of Gazprom shares, owned by the government, to be sold.

Yeltsin ordered the government to work out how much to sell and the terms. The government needs cash fast to shore up its budget.

Gazprom itself, which is waiting to make new foreign issues until markets improve, said it would not insist the government offer the stake to Royal Dutch/Shell and Italian ENI, with which it has strategic agreements.

"We have our own schemes (with these companies), so let the government itself look for a strategic investor," said Gazprom deputy chairman Pyotr Rodionov.

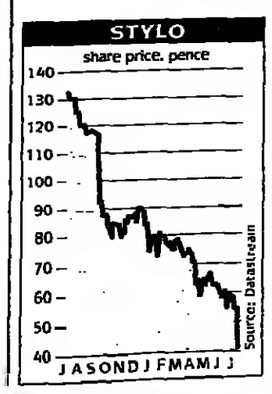
Gazprom had recommended that the government sell a 5 per cent stake as a whole at a cash auction, or divide it into two lots and sell to strategic investors.

"We are happy that the government's stake in Gazprom is decreasing," he said, but the sale should be made with care. "We don't want the shares to be sold carelessly and without good return."

Gazprom was valued at about $50bn before Russian markets headed into a tailspin last October. Shell and ENI had already agreed to invest $1 bn each in shares owned by a Gazprom affiliate.

Gazprom's spokesman Gennady Yezhov said that Gazprom had had preliminary talks with its strategic partners, which had expressed interest in acquiring Gazprom's shares.

However, Moscow will not be in a hurry to sell the shares as it has received a loan from the International Monetary Fund.



Showdown looms as Stylo warns on profits

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

STYLO, the shoe retailer that took over the Hush Puppy stores from Sears two years ago, issued a profits warning yesterday which the board said may affect the dividend and lead to a shake-up of the under-performing business.

A showdown with shareholders could also be looming as it emerged that Guinness Peat Group, the shareholder activist, has acquired a 1.4 per cent stake and may be interested in building a larger holding.

Stylo shares lost 22 per cent of their value to close at 40.5p after the company said trading in June had been affected by poor weather and the disruption caused by the conversion of the Hush Puppy stores to its Barratts and Instep formats. It has also been badly hit by the fall-out from Sears' disposal of its British Shoe Corporation business.

This caused a wave of discounting which damaged Stylo's margins, the company said. Consequently first half results will be "much worse" than last year's £2.5m deficit. It said the full-year dividend would be "reviewed" as would a host of other options such as it two-tier voting structure, the board structure and the possible disposal of non-core assets.

Stylo is now expected barely to break even in the full year though the company says it is unlikely that it will breach its banking covenants.

Michael Ziff, the chief executive whose family controls Stylo, dismissed talk that the family might seek to take Stylo private. "It is not a route we want to go down. We want to battle it out and make this company a success as a plc."

Mr Ziff said he welcomed the arrival of Guinness Peat Group on Stylo's shareholder register even though it has a history of taking on the management in under-performing, often family controlled companies such as Young & Co, the London Brewer. "We have not spoken to them but we welcome them as we do all shareholders."

He said the company had been reviewing its voting structure since the beginning of the year. Other changes could include the sale of some shops and the sale and lease-back of others.

Stylo has been under pressure since 1996 when it acquired the Hush Puppy stores from Sears. It also acquired the Saxone brand.

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
AIM Abbey Pembroke Ltd					
Growth/Income	251.28	267.32	-4.35	3.69	5.00
Equity Income	167.70	180.24	-1.10	4.58	5.00
Growth	348.97	371.29	-5.06	0.51	5.00
High Income	59.98	63.81	-0.31	7.06	5.00
Global Growth Acc	105.23	111.95	-0.98	0.52	6.00
AIM Gemini Trust Ltd					
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR					
Tel: 0171 378 7979					
American General	346.80	367.50	0.40	0.00	5.00
American Display	239.65	242.61	-4.61	0.00	5.00
Asia Pac	52.13	55.03	-1.59	1.09	5.00
Balanced Exempt	184.00	190.60	0.00	1.70	3.00
Cash	9.90	9.89	0.00	5.75	0.50
Core 8 Sel Ex	173.66	173.96	-1.15	2.57	5.00
Corporate Bond	69.41	68.50	-0.10	6.03	3.25
European (Gross)	439.80	466.70	1.20	0.00	5.00
European Strategy	191.91	211.66	5.40	0.00	5.50
FTSE Mid 250 Index	113.79	121.89	-1.11	1.89	3.50
Global Uk Index	26.20	27.75	-0.24	5.75	5.50
Global Strategy	47.94	51.27	-0.07	0.00	5.50
Greater China	129.31	138.26	-3.00	0.00	5.50
International Growth	190.90	208.90	0.05	0.11	5.50
Japan General	96.30	102.10	-2.90	0.00	5.00
Latin American	90.90	96.30	-0.55	0.00	5.50
Mommy Income	45.73	48.96	-0.21	2.88	5.50
Pacific Strategy	80.37	85.93	-1.89	0.00	5.50
UK Bear	4.10	4.39	0.04	5.25	5.50
UK Equity General	423.90	450.90	-4.80	0.00	5.00
UK Equity/Safeguard	112.26	120.80	0.77	2.09	5.50
UK Index	70.78	75.60	-0.19	3.35	5.50
UK Safeguard	148.51	149.74	-0.19	0.00	5.50
UK Smaller Cos	94.28	100.63	-0.55	0.50	5.50
US Bear	3.68	3.90	0.04	1.76	5.50
US Equity Safeguard	94.24	100.00	0.00	0.00	5.50
US Index	26.25	27.66	-0.26	4.25	5.25
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers					
AXA Equity & Law Hse.					
Corporation St., Coventry CV1 1GB					
Tel: 01203 553231					
Balanced Acc	61.63	66.03	-0.60	2.13	6.00
Balanced Ut	74.00	78.60	-0.58	2.11	6.00
British Equity	130.10	139.40	-1.60	2.05	6.00
BritishFedintAcc	129.30	139.60	1.20	4.20	6.00
BritishFedintUnac	107.00	113.80	-0.30	4.20	6.00
Europe	817.30	856.60	-7.70	0.43	6.00
General Acc	548.00	588.00	-10.00	2.10	5.00
General Inc	769.70	810.30	-9.10	2.10	5.00
GiltsFixed Int	94.29	103.00	0.30	6.22	4.10
GiltsIntPrestigAcc	241.60	255.40	0.60	5.72	5.50
Global Opps	136.00	144.30	-0.70	0.00	5.50
Higher Inc Acc	1260.00	1340.00	0.00	4.15	6.00
Higher Uk Inc	837.00	878.00	0.00	4.15	6.00
Japan	31.90	33.90	-0.30	0.00	6.00
North America	489.30	520.50	-10.00	0.00	6.00
Pacific Basin	236.40	251.40	-0.60	1.52	6.00
Uk Growth Acc	653.00	694.00	-7.60	2.04	6.00
Uk Growth Ut	410.10	430.20	-4.00	2.04	6.00
AXA Sun Life Fund Mngrs					
AmerGrowthAcc	134.70	142.40	0.20	0.00	5.00
DiscretionPlatoAcc	69.25	73.60	-0.51	0.00	5.00
Distribution	36.12	37.31	-0.16	2.32	5.00
Distribution Acc	38.03	41.47	-0.17	2.32	5.00
EmergDebtAcc	16.61	17.67	-0.15	0.30	5.00
Ethical	52.18	55.57	-0.19	1.29	5.00
EuropGrthAcc	176.50	187.50	-1.00	0.47	5.00
FarEastGrthAcc	91.99	97.04	-2.64	0.00	5.00
JapanGrthAcc	68.00	69.32	-2.16	0.00	5.00
Extra Income Acc	57.98	61.16	-0.30	7.00	5.00
Extra Income Inc	41.26	43.50	-0.04	5.30	5.00
UkGrowthAcc	134.50	142.90	-1.40	0.79	5.00
UkHighYieldAcc	103.00	108.50	-0.30	7.11	5.00
UkHighYieldInc	126.50	134.40	-0.70	7.11	5.00
UkGilts&GrthAcc	155.50	167.40	-0.90	2.23	5.00
UkGilts&GrthInc	117.40	121.70	-0.70	2.23	5.00
Pacific Growth	27.91	29.87	-0.61	1.05	5.00
UK Growth Acc	132.40	140.80	-0.90	1.49	5.00
UK Income Acc	138.50	147.30	-1.00	3.22	5.00
UK Income Inc	84.94	90.35	-0.65	3.22	5.00
UK Smaller Cos	48.11	51.24	-0.23	1.70	5.00
Abbey Unit Trust Managers					
American Growth	605.30	645.90	0.00	0.21	6.00
Asian Pacific	163.80	175.20	-4.90	0.71	6.00
Assets & Earnings	394.00	422.40	-1.60	2.42	6.00
Capital Reserve Acc	150.30	150.30	0.00	4.42	0.00
Dividend & Growth	91.30	89.71	-0.10	3.10	6.00
Ethical	104.50	111.70	-0.30	1.63	6.00
Europe Ex Capital	290.90	320.70	1.00	0.21	6.00
EuropeanCapitalAcc	328.10	350.90	1.70	0.21	6.00
Extra Income	42.29	45.52	0.07	9.19	6.00
General	356.30	379.00	-0.90	2.56	6.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	146.50	158.80	-0.70	5.71	6.00
Global Growth & Inc	81.56	87.06	0.70	2.00	6.00
Global Opps	81.76	89.64	-0.16	0.36	6.00
High Inc Equity	251.50	269.40	-0.60	3.34	6.00
International	161.40	172.60	-0.40	0.00	6.00
Japan	74.36	79.51	-2.45	0.00	6.00
Latin American	86.41	91.00	-0.86	0.94	6.00
Managed Income	56.77	59.79	-0.05	4.22	6.00
Mastertrust	205.10	219.40	-0.60	1.09	6.00
Mid Uk Growth	164.30	196.00	0.40	1.45	5.00
Mid Uk Income	107.10	209.60	0.30	1.45	5.00
US Emerging Cos	146.48	203.50	-1.60	0.00	6.00
Worldwide Bond	277.30	294.10	-0.70	3.56	6.00
Abbey National Df Mngrs Ltd					
Equity Income	100.70	191.70	0.40	3.30	5.00
Extra Income	336.90	357.70	0.00	4.32	5.00
Intrnl Bond	151.80	161.40	-0.40	0.00	5.50
H & P Uk Growth	127.90	136.00	0.20	1.42	5.50
Smaller Cos	165.60	112.50	-0.70	1.85	5.50
Aberdeen Prudnc Df Mngrs Ltd					
Emerging Markets	51.67	54.67	-0.24	0.00	4.25
Ethical	49.50	101.13	-0.20	0.00	4.25
EuEastEmgEcon	60.74	64.37	-0.03	1.00	4.25
Fixed Interest	30.57	32.00	0.00	7.56	4.25
Frontier Markets	73.60	78.99	0.33	0.00	4.25
Fund of Inv Trsts	225.34	238.41	-4.00	0.18	4.25
FundsofFundsAcc	492.04	520.60	-0.09	0.10	4.25
Gilt Income	98.41	52.61	-0.95	6.52	4.25
Global Bond	40.98	42.74	-0.11	4.64	4.25
High Yield Bond	165.75	111.50	0.00	0.62	4.25
Japan	140.30	148.54	-3.97	0.00	4.25
Latin American	60.67	64.42	-0.52	0.59	4.25
Master Growth	64.01	67.79	-0.71	0.20	4.25
Master Income	69.42	72.39	-0.57	2.08	4.25
Pacific	41.47	40.68	-0.59	0.71	4.25
Property Share	91.96	97.31	-1.14	1.80	4.25
Uk Emerging Cos	90.80	98.16	-0.35	0.78	4.25
Uk Growth	79.77	84.42	0.90	1.04	4.25
Worldwide Portfolio	101.40	106.95	-0.43	1.98	4.25
Pr AmerUpsecAcc	388.56	408.09	-2.48	0.00	4.25
Pr EuropGrthAcc	155.40	164.00	0.00	0.00	4.25
Pr EuropSpecOpps	166.35	174.69	-0.76	0.04	4.25
Pr Extra Income	274.13	287.97	-1.01	7.18	4.25
Pr EstasianPacAcc	334.97	343.91	-1.38	2.11	4.25
Pr Global Income	83.91	56.77	0.27	3.17	4.25
Pr Global Inc Acc	35.00	36.94	0.15	3.17	4.25
Pr High Income	173.63	183.75	-1.00	3.81	4.25
Pr HighincomeAcc	234.10	247.87	-1.42	3.61	4.25
Pr NthAmericaAcc	281.93	295.11	-1.41	0.00	4.25
Pr NthAmericanAcc	282.36	295.60	-1.48	0.00	4.25
Pr Prel O Fixed Int	55.19	58.39	-0.10	5.17	4.25
Pr PrelsFixedIntAcc	60.50	64.50	-0.15	5.17	4.25
Pr Special Sits	147.61	156.54	-0.00	0.99	4.25
Pr SpecialSitsAcc	213.74	226.19	-0.07	0.99	4.25
Pr Technology	925.03	973.90	-7.99	0.00	4.25
Pr TechnologyAcc	925.03	973.05	-7.99	0.00	4.25
Pr Uk Blue Chip	126.75	135.90	0.33	2.18	4.25
Pr Uk BlueChipAcc	154.99	163.57	0.39	2.18	4.25
Albert E Sharp					
Ethical	100.30	105.90	-0.40	0.00	5.00
Smaller Cos	153.00	161.10	-0.90	0.00	5.00
Uk General	230.40	244.60	-1.20	1.75	5.00
00 charities					
Amer Acc	150.45	159.63	-0.51	1.14	5.00
Amer Inc	115.60	122.65	-0.39	1.14	5.00
High-Inc Acc	70.06	82.19	-0.09	3.28	5.25
High-Inc Inc	68.93	70.46	-0.05	3.28	5.25
IncomeBuilderAcc	157.39	167.44	-0.30	2.90	5.50
IncomeBuilderInc	109.17	116.14	-0.20	2.00	5.50
Alliance & Leicester					
General Growth	77.53	82.75	0.00	2.16	3.00
General Inc	61.96	66.12	0.00	6.51	3.00
Income Acc	57.84	59.79	0.00	6.51	3.00
O & CE					
QuantQuantPension	163.60	160.90	0.00	0.00	3.00
FocusPensPens	94.71	97.92	0.00	0.00	3.00
BWD Boneham Unit Trust Mngrs					
Balanced Plan	227.99	245.30	2.68	0.46	4.50
Equity Growth	125.64	130.33	0.12	1.14	4.50
High Yield Bond	109.67	111.30	-0.11	6.65	1.50
Baillie Gifford & Co Ltd					
Amer Smaller Cos	472.10	500.70	2.20	0.00	5.00
American	169.00	179.40	-0.95	0.00	5.00
Bond	103.90	110.10	-0.10	6.30	5.00
British Sm Cos	116.70	124.10	-0.25	1.91	5.00
British Sm Cos Acc	116.70	124.10	-0.25	1.81	5.00
Bracken 250	179.40	177.80	-1.55	2.12	4.00
British S&P Acc	177.29	173.60	-1.60	2.12	5.00
Cash	100.25	109.40	0.07	6.04	0.00
Convertible & Gen	76.34	81.32	-0.29	3.30	5.00
Emerg Mkt Gwth	74.66	79.38	-0.56	0.00	5.25
Europe	484.00	514.25	-5.75	0.00	5.00
Euro Smaller Cos	155.10	165.00	0.10	0.10	5.25
Income	457.50	486.70	-3.50	3.42	5.00
International	1328.00	1320.00	0.00	0.72	5.00
Japan	1215.00	1205.00	-14.00	0.72	5.00
Japan Smaller Cos	266.50	281.90	-8.25	0.00	5.00
Japan Smaller Cos	447.70	458.90	-10.60	0.00	2.00
Latin America	98.32	104.60	-0.79	0.04	5.25
Managed	271.30	287.90	-2.15	1.92	5.00
Pacific	57.26	60.91	-0.72	1.70	5.00
Uk Smaller Cos	67.58	71.83	-0.19	0.00	5.00
Barclays Fund Managers Ltd					
11 Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4BL					
Customer Help Desk: 0181 522 4000					
Balanced Trusts					
Income Funds					
Cash	100.40	100.40	0.00	0.485	0.00
Gilt	125.70	135.70	0.10	6.88	0.00
Income	162.40	334.50	-1.70	3.52	5.25
Income Builder	91.49	97.33	-0.12	3.98	5.25
Balanced Funds					
500	557.60	631.80	-3.84	1.70	5.25
Exempt	122.00	130.70	-0.40	1.07	5.25
General	464.30	497.10	-2.30	1.07	5.25
Property	281.50	302.00	-0.40	5.62	1.25
Trustee	523.10	345.70	-1.10	1.23	5.25
Growth Funds UK					
Uk Mechanistic	100.40	101.10	0.20	2.62	0.00
Capital	207.40	224.00	-0.75	1.18	5.25
Capital Acc	207.40	224.80	-0.70	1.18	5.25
FTSE 100	191.30	198.60	-0.40	1.29	5.00
Smaller Cos Acc	79.68	85.21	-0.57	1.86	5.25
Smaller Cos Inc	65.30	69.55	-0.46	1.38	5.25
Growth Funds - Overseas					
America	274.90	290.20	-2.60	0.00	5.25
American Growth	185.90	195.70	-0.90	0.00	5.50
Japan Acc	86.48	91.31	-1.12	0.00	5.25
Japan Ut	85.90	90.77	-1.09	0.00	5.25
Japan Spec Sits	39.55	41.85	-1.47	0.00	5.50
Worldwide	245.80	261.00	-0.90	0.56	5.25
Barclays Investment Portfolios (1280)F					
High Income Inc	51.60	51.70	-0.09	6.53	0.00
Managed Income	50.00	51.01	-0.10	6.38	3.25
Mgd Gwth/Income	50.57	53.62	-0.06	5.01	5.25
Managed Growth	52.65	57.16	-0.00	0.00	5.25
Barclays Global Investors Funds					
PO Box 14828 London E15 4BR					
Brokerline: 0800 731 2443					
Income Funds					
Distribution	139.60	140.20	-0.30	4.03	0.00
Equity Income	191.60	204.30	-1.30	3.54	5.25
GiltFixedIntAcc	64.33	66.61	-0.12	6.08	2.25
InternatFixedInt	100.00	104.10	-0.10	4.29	2.25
InternatFixedIntAcc	133.10	137.30	-0.10	4.29	3.25
Growth Funds - UK					
Gwth & Uk Acc	1322.00	1412.00	-3.00	1.21	5.25
Gwth & Inc Inc	610.00	648.90	-1.70	1.21	5.25
Uk Growth	602.00	640.40	-2.00	1.09	5.25
Uk Growth Acc	602.00	640.00	-2.00	1.09	5.25
Growth Funds - Overseas					
European Growth	322.80	341.60	1.00	0.45	5.25
EuropeanGwthAcc	353.50	374.10	1.10	0.45	5.25
FarEasternGrowth	35.05	90.43	-1.56	1.62	5.25
FarEastGwthAcc	145.29	155.00	-2.70	1.68	5.25
Baring Fund Managers Ltd					
PO Box 831, 155 Bishopsgate,					
London EC2M 3YS					
Enq: 0171 762 5450, Dealing: 0171 214 1994					
American Growth	227.60	240.90	-0.40	0.00	5.00
AmericanSmlrCos	170.00	180.00	-1.40	0.00	5.00
Eastern	121.60	131.50	-1.60	0.30	5.00
Equity Income	134.10	147.90	0.00	0.00	5.00
European Growth	248.70	261.70	1.40	0.49	5.00
European Select	548.70	588.10	1.20	0.50	5.00
European Smlr	184.50	195.50	1.10	0.50	5.00
Global Bond	78.28	79.71	-0.15	5.10	3.00
Global Growth	257.00	240.50	0.00	0.00	5.00
Income Plus	56.44	59.63	0.04	6.60	3.00
Japan Growth	110.20	116.50	-1.20	0.00	5.00
Japan Smlr Cos	79.56	84.00	-0.70	0.00	5.00
Japan Special	171.80	140.39	-1.79	0.00	5.00
Latin American	132.50	140.95	-1.79	0.00	6.00
Latin Dragons	53.73	56.52	-0.46	0.00	4.00
Latin Dragons Inc	52.25	55.21	-0.45	0.00	4.00
Money Market	105.71	100.71	0.04	6.30	0.00
Nth America	190.33	191.95	-0.31	0.00	6.00
NthAmericaAcc	271.96	286.00	-0.30	0.00	6.00
Oriental Income	30.63	31.44	-0.20	4.12	4.00
Oriental Income Acc	43.16	45.50	-0.21	4.12	4.00
Preference Acc	1099.11	1140.47	-2.59	7.64	4.00
Preference Inc	160.61	163.20	-0.39	7.50	4.00
Smaller Cos	171.40	186.59	-0.68	0.00	4.00
Smaller Cos Acc	246.48	262.21	-0.97	0.00	4.00
Tiger Acc	149.29	156.63	-2.75	0.00	4.00
Tiger Inc	142.81	148.70	-2.61	0.00	4.00
Tomorrow Ex A	13.59	13.76	0.03	0.17	0.00
Tomorrow Ex I	13.59	13.76	0.03	0.11	0.00
UK Growth Acc	2759.95	2306.13	0.21	1.29	4.00
Uk Growth Inc	951.82	930.77	0.09	1.29	4.00
Uk Income	491.66	484.82	0.72	2.54	0.00
UK Index Acc	901.63	900.16	1.35	1.54	0.00
Uk Mid-Cap Acc	1008.64	1056.16	3.72	1.12	4.00
Uk Mid-Cap Inc	516.68	541.23	1.80	1.12	4.00
Uk Smaller Cos	157.87	165.30	-1.40	0.81	4.00
UkSmallerCoAcc	189.10	198.81	-1.66	0.07	4.00
Eagle Star					
Growth	64.15	67.60	-0.10	2.95	6.00
Income Acc	51.45	54.20	-0.14	5.77	6.00
Income Inc	29.73	32.00	-0.12	5.77	6.00
Uk Index Tracker	57.74	61.42	-0.11	2.85	0.00
Edinburgh Unit Trust Mngrs Ltd					
Japan Smaller Cos	14.14	15.05	-0.10	0.00	5.25
JapanSmlrCos	222.90	235.40	-3.50	0.00	5.00
NorthAmer	684.90	721.40	-1.10	0.00	5.00
Emerging Mkts C Acc	94.73	(Ann)	-0.66	0.00	0.00
Emerging Mkts C Inc	95.16	(Ann)	-0.66	0.00	0.00
European	100.10	106.20	-0.70	0.00	5.00
Financial	97.10	102.54	-1.03	1.00	5.00
Global Equity A Acc	99.67	(Ann)	-0.92	0.41	0.00
Global Equity A Inc	98.67	(Ann)	-0.92	0.41	0.00
Global Equity B Acc	98.78	(Ann)	-0.99	0.40	0.00
Global Equity B Inc	98.78	(Ann)	-0.99	0.40	0.00
Latin American	31.25	33.31	-0.36	0.00	5.25
Managed Growth	113.30	118.40	-0.90	0.98	3.25
Pacific	51.48	54.70	-1.19	0.00	5.25
Sixth Firm	30.26	31.70	0.00	1.77	3.50
Tokyo	127.50	140.30	-4.60	0.00	5.00
UK Income	244.40	263.70	-1.50	3.22	5.00
Uk Hong Interest	27.50	29.20	-0.15	6.16	5.00
UK Growth	115.70	441.70	-2.50	1.96	5.00
Uk Smaller Cos	318.30	333.20	-1.40	1.03	5.00
Equitable Ordns Admin Ltd					
Ethical	60.05	63.21	-0.79	1.00	5.00
European	156.31	164.10	-3.81	1.21	0.00
Far Eastern	180.77	197.65	-3.96	2.33	0.00
High Income	157.19	207.57	-1.75	3.57	0.00
Intl Growth	132.97	150.49	-2.11	1.29	0.00
North America	207.47	210.34	-2.39	1.47	0.00
Pacific	201.90	212.66	-1.29	2.14	0.00
Smaller Cos	93.72	84.97	-0.96	1.82	0.00
Special Sits	103.70	108.63	-1.24	2.90	0.00
Tech/Tlm Ltd	254.29	268.72	-1.50	1.38	0.00
UK Index Tracking	76.26	79.71	-0.50	2.11	0.00
Eastern Fund Managers Ltd					
Capital Growth	100.09	200.54	-1.25	0.00	5.00
Equity Income	31.45	33.73	-0.05	4.74	5.00
Fundamentals	69.61	74.02	-0.50	0.11	5.00
High Income	52.11	55.25	-0.03	8.37	5.00
Pacific Growth	16.37	17.30	-0.31	0.00	5.00
Worldwide Growth	67.46	72.17	-0.41	0.00	5.00
Zero Preference	52.13	55.31	-0.02	0.00	5.00
Family					
Asset	144.36	153.50	-0.20	1.72	0.00
Balanced	78.39	81.06	-0.17	1.72	0.00
Regency	82.27	82.27	-0.10	0.91	0.00
Smaller Cos	68.31	72.67	-0.35	1.61	0.00
United Charities	380.00	410.00	-2.00	2.12	0.00
Fidelity Investment Serve Ltd					
American	572.90	607.30	-7.70	0.00	5.25
AmericanSmrCos	261.10	278.50	-2.80	0.00	5.25
ASEAN	18.79	20.05	-0.00	0.00	5.25
Cash	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.50	0.00
Cash Acc	129.67	129.67	0.00	6.20	0.00
European	394.30	419.90	0.50	0.25	5.25
European Opps	154.90	164.20	0.40	0.34	5.25
Global Princess	40.74	51.43	0.04	0.16	5.25
Growth & Income	267.60	284.60	1.20	2.79	5.25
High Income	34.34	50.02	0.03	4.38	4.00
Income Plus	190.90	211.50	0.70	3.01	5.25
International PEP	71.24	75.75	-0.15	0.91	5.25
Japan	140.00	148.00	-3.00	0.00	5.25
Japan Special Sits	50.72	59.98	-0.59	0.00	5.25
Long Gilt	32.09	(Mth)	-0.11	5.88	0.00
Managed Inf	510.70	558.70	-3.90	0.54	5.25
ManagedPensPlan	363.20	387.40	-0.50	2.07	0.00
MoneybuilderGwth	46.83	47.27	0.10	2.64	5.25
MoneybuilderInc	28.27	28.35	-0.05	6.68	0.00
Moneybuilder Index	42.17	42.47	0.13	2.21	0.00
MoneybuilderPlus	90.22	90.86	-0.35	0.20	5.25
Portfolio	129.56	133.30	-0.50	0.69	5.25
Recovery	74.16	70.86	-0.54	2.33	5.25
Special Sits	1901.00	1150.00	2.00	0.98	5.25
Sits East Asia	116.20	121.90	-3.10	1.69	3.25
UK Growth	181.80	190.50	0.40	1.91	5.25
Wealth Builder	32.23	34.27	-0.12	0.20	5.25
Foreign & Colonial Unit Mngrs Ltd					
Capital Growth	280.00	291.50	3.30	0.00	5.00
High Income	24.25	25.73	0.10	0.74	5.00
Japan SmallerCos	11.11	11.88	-0.16	0.00	5.00
UK Smlr Cos Acc	30.43	34.90	-0.13	1.79	5.00
UK Smlr Cos Inc	30.43	34.90	-0.13	1.79	5.00
US Smaller Cos	586.10	621.00	-5.30	0.00	5.00
Framlington Unit Mngrs Ltd					
Asian Growth	135.00	143.00	-0.40	0.00	5.00
Asian Growth Acc	135.00	143.00	-0.00	0.00	5.00
Asian Smaller Cos	81.10	86.00	-0.40	0.00	5.00
AmerSmlrCosAcc	834.90	888.00	-11.50	0.00	5.00
Capital	468.00	498.90	-2.50	1.26	5.00
Capital Acc	700.50	740.00	-3.50	1.26	5.00
EuropeanSmlrCos	156.91	182.40	0.00	0.00	5.00
EuroSmlrCosAcc	167.00	180.00	1.00	0.00	5.00
Convertible	164.50	175.90	-0.60	5.83	5.00
Convertible Acc	360.20	415.10	-1.50	5.83	5.00
Emerg Mkts Acc	46.13	51.42	-0.60	0.00	5.00
Emerg Mkts Acc	40.55	51.87	0.60	0.07	5.00
European	267.20	283.00	0.50	0.00	5.00
European Acc	294.10	300.90	0.50	0.00	5.00
Extra Inc Acc	623.40	629.10	0.70	0.00	5.00
Extra Income	541.00	547.70	-4.70	0.55	5.00
Financial	206.50	326.10	-0.60	0.39	5.00
Financial Acc	329.50	350.40	-0.50	0.50	5.00
Global	63.50	69.81	-0.06	0.00	5.00
Gilt Acc	100.00	111.40	-0.10	5.69	3.00
Hedge Fund Acc	288.00	280.00	-3.00	0.00	5.00
Hedge Fund Acc	369.80	287.00	-5.00	0.00	5.50
Income/Growth	300.00	319.00	-2.00	0.00	5.00
IncomeGrowthAcc	565.00	538.10	-4.60	3.05	5.00
Intl Growth	549.00	584.40	-4.00	0.00	5.00
Intl Growth Acc	609.60	648.40	-4.60	0.00	5.00
Japan & General	172.70	136.00	-1.10	0.00	5.00
Japan & Gen Acc	111.10	117.40	-3.00	0.00	5.00
ManagedDistrAcc	79.00	84.00	0.00	4.70	5.00
ManagedDistrib	67.87	70.65	0.00	4.30	5.00
Managed Pacific	140.90	149.90	-1.00	0.00	5.00
MgdPortfolioAcc	163.60	172.20	-0.70	1.59	5.00
Monthly Income	264.60	281.50	0.00	0.81	5.00
MonthlyIncAcc	281.50	299.90	0.00	3.81	5.00
Pacific Growth	71.12	75.30	-0.50	0.00	5.00
OverseasIncAcc	87.63	96.54	0.00	4.50	5.00
UK Growth	88.80	94.47	-0.21	1.22	5.00
UK Growth Acc	99.54	100.90	-0.20	0.00	5.00
Friends Provident Unit Trst Managers Ltd					
United Kingdom Ho, Castle St,					
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3SQ					
Eng: 01722 715834, Dealing: 01722 715835					
Amer Smaller Cos	232.80	240.50	-2.50	0.00	5.75
American

هكذا من الاصل

HK Telecom lays off 270 to cut costs

HONGKONG Telecommunications, the territory's leading phone operator, yesterday announced swingeing job cuts in an effort to fight off increasing competition in its domestic telecoms market.

By Francesco Guerrera

The company, in which the UK group Cable & Wireless has a majority stake, said it had laid off 270 management staff under a "reshaping exercise" aimed at cutting costs and increase productivity.

In a brief statement, HK Telecom said the move was necessary "in light of the increasingly competitive market environment and ahead of further liberalisation in the telecommunications market next year."

The company, which employs more than 14,000 people, is set to lose its international monopoly from next year. Under a deal with the Chinese-backed Hong Kong government announced in January, rival operators will be able to lease international lines from HK Telecom. Facilities-based competition, including international direct dial services, will start from 2000.

Analysts have pointed out repeatedly that the company urgently needs to cut costs and increase productivity if it is to compete with its international rivals.

"It absolutely needs to look at how to cut costs, especially since it is facing a downturn in operations which could weigh on its profits by HK$500m (£39m) in 1998-99 and HK$1bn in 1999-2000," said Stanley Tang, an analyst with Tai Fook Securities.

The 270 sacked staff, mainly network and technical operation managers, are set to receive a total HK$100m (£7.8m) redundancy package, which is expected to be paid through the cost-savings arising from the lay-offs.

"The overall implications for this year should be very minimal with the redundancy payment offsetting the cost savings. Next year there should be some very marginal cost savings," according to Niq Lai, an analyst with Credit Suisse First Boston.

Meanwhile, the company announced that its senior management team would take wage cuts of 8-10 per cent from August. Experts said the move was a clear attempt by the company's executives to show that the pain of restructuring was also hitting the top echelons.

Yesterday's round of job cuts is only the latest in a series of redundancies which have seen HK Telecom workforce decline by more than 2,300 units in the past two years.

A spokesman yesterday said the company had no plans to cut more staff, but anlaysts said that more redundancies are on the cards as the company is still in the throes of a three-year plan to slash around 2,500 jobs, announced in 1995.

Shares in HK Telecom fell HK$0.40, or 2.73 per cent, on the Hong Kong stock exchange to close at HK$14.25 in line with a slump in the blue chip Hang Seng index, which lost 3.31 per cent to close at 7,984.43 points.

Sir Reo Stakis, chairman of Stakis, at one of his group's roulette wheels. Casino business was up 13 per cent and helped Stakis to achieve improved trading for the third quarter in a row. The shares climbed to 114.5p yesterday as hotel room occupancy and Livingwell health clubs added to the surge. *Photo Press Dundee*

Why Japan should not be taking the US advice

HAMISH MCRAE

Cut taxes and raise spending is the message the Americans want; it is the wrong policy

HOW RADICAL is the reshuffle? No, not our little one, which on the broad scale of global events barely comes up on the radar screen: the one that really matters, in Japan.

The new Japanese cabinet will be announced on Thursday, but ahead of this news it is beginning to seem likely that the key post of finance minister will go to a consolidator rather than a radical. That, at least, was the judgement of the markets yesterday, as manifest by the sharp fall in share prices in Tokyo.

There are few political processes more opaque than the power-shuffling within Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, but it seems likely that the choice will be made on factional grounds, with either Kiichi Miyazawa (the former Prime Minister) or his colleague Koichi Kato getting the job.

Apparently Mr Miyazawa has to be offered the job and turn it down so that it can then be offered to Mr Kato, who is from the same faction of the LDP. The candidate the markets would like, the reformist Seiroku Kajiyama, is apparently less likely to be chosen. He is in favour of more drastic reform of the banking system and is accordingly unpopular with financial and business leadership – though not with the markets.

What does all this mean for the rest of us? There is an immediate issue and a slightly longer-standing one.

The immediate issue is the success or otherwise of the banking reform plan. The Ministry of Finance itself is apparently quite confident that it will at last be able to restore faith in the banking system, and officials will privately indicate that several large banks are likely to be formally rescued.

The question is whether the system will be patched or reformed, with the balance of probability on the former. Because things are never quite what they seem in Japan, we will have to wait, probably until the autumn, before we can make a judgement here. Meanwhile the country is suffering severe flight of capital.

Banking reform is a necessary but insufficient condition for the revival of the economy, and the longer-standing issue is whether anything can be put together under this set of political leaders which will get to grips with that. The early signs are less than encouraging. At a meeting over the weekend the Prime Minister-elect, Keizo Obuchi, told Madeleine Albright that his government would cut taxes and raise spending. This is the message that the Americans want to bear; trouble is, it is the wrong policy.

Japan is running a large current account surplus which inevitably has to be matched by a capital account deficit: statistical quirks aside, the two have to match. So a capital outflow is unsurprising given the sharp fall in imports and the widening trade surplus. But an outflow of capital is a problem if those savings are needed to finance a widening budget deficit. Up to now Japan has had no difficulty in financing its public debt. Long-term interest rates have been falling, giving holders of debt capital appreciation and therefore buttressing their willingness to buy yet more debt.

But at some stage debt reaches a point where it adds to financial market uncertainty. Japan is enormously in hock, as the graph shows. Most economists look at the size of net public-sector debt when comparing countries: that is more or less the Maastricht way of looking at things, with its 60 per cent of gross domestic product ratio now accepted as the prudent ceiling.

On this conventional measure Japan's public sector debt is 90 per cent of GDP, high but not utterly dreadful. (We are around 55 per cent.) Within Europe, Italy and Belgium have the highest public sector debt to GDP rates, at around 120 per cent.

If, however, you add private sector debt to public sector debt, a rather different picture emerges. I am grateful to Barclays Capital for the graph here, which shows that total debt in Japan eclipses both Italy and the US. Total debt is nearly 300 per cent of GDP.

True this is gross debt – there are some offsets. But it means that the Japanese economy is extraordinarily sensitive to any rise in interest rates. You might say, well, unless something dreadful happens there isn't going to be a rise in Japanese interest rates. That may turn out to be true, but even if it does, it might only be true for money interest rates. Real interest rates are obviously increased by deflation: if prices fall the real debt burden climbs in just the same way as it would if nominal interest rates rose.

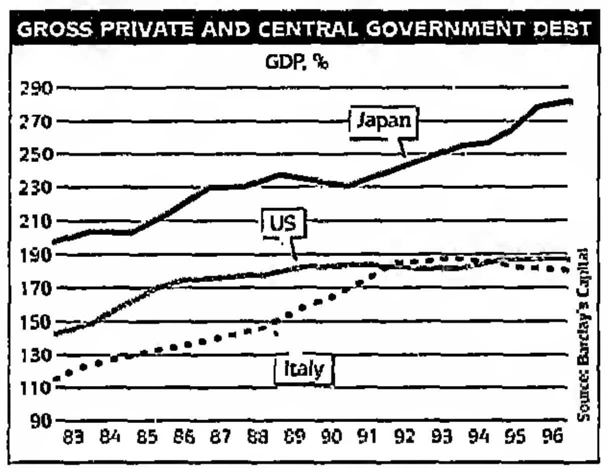
At any rate it seems odd that the Americans should be urging Japan to add yet further to its debt burden, for doing so might have the perverse effect of pushing up Japanese interest rates, which is precisely the opposite of what the counby needs. Instead the thing to look for will be the willingness of Japan to monetise its debt – just get the Bank of Japan to print the money if necessary – to try to create a little inflation and thereby reduce the real debt burden that way.

This course of action carries dangers, for it is quite difficult to manage the deliberate creatiou of inflation. You don't know whether it will work; you don't know what will happen to the currency; there is always a danger of perverse effects on confidence from such a course of action. But put at its lowest, a very loose monetary policy is clearly another necessary but insufficient condition for Japanese recovery.

There is a third necessary but insufficient condition for recovery, radical deregulation, of which more at some other time.

Meanwhile, will the cabinet that emerges on Thursday be likely to generate a climate where radicalism can flourish? The omens look unpromising, but what is most interesting of all is the way in which the possibility of radical reform has pushed up the scale of attention in the media and in politics. At least there is now some radical talk, if not yet radical action. That is progress of a sort, even if not much of it is evident on Thursday.

GROSS PRIVATE AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEBT



Poor pension results blamed on the DSS

LONDON & MANCHESTER has become the second life insurer in a month to attack computer failures at the DSS which have had a negative impact on its business results this year.

By Andrew Verity

The DSS has experienced repeated problems with NIRS2, the giant computer system introduced over the last year to administer national insurance.

David Hubbard, chairman of L&M, said the problem had an effect on sales of pension policies, a key part of the company's business.

His comments follow similar criticism from Les Owen, chief executive of Axa Sun Life, one of the UK's biggest life offices, when he announced results for the first half of the year. Mr Owen also said government delays had affected results.

Personal and groups get national insurance rebates in exchange for pledging to replace the benefits provided by Serps, the state-run second pension scheme. The rebates, amounting to billions of pounds every year, are meant to be paid in every month.

But teething troubles caused by the introduction of NIRS2 are likely to delay the payment of the rebates by months. The DSS has so far refused to apologise for the problem.

"The single premium results for the group were impacted by delays in receipt of contracting out rebate payments from the DSS," Mr Hubbard said.

London & Manchester posted a leap of 25 per cent in sales yesterday despite the computer trouble. Sales were fuelled by growing interest in employer-sponsored pension schemes.

A surge in management buyouts boosted sales of group pensions, as MBO teams sought to match pension promises made by former parent companies.

The MBO boom saw sales of group pensions to companies grow by 35 per cent, while lump sum pensions designed to match former were up by 50 per cent.

However, London & Manchester also saw a big drop of 27 per cent in new business sold by its appointed representatives – sales people who sell only L&M products but are not employees.

L&M's home service business – where premiums are collected door to door – managed to get as much new business as last year.

This was despite being taken off the road for three weeks to train for sales on laptop computers.

Deutsche Bank results disappoint

DEUTSCHE BANK'S first-half profit rose a less-than-expected 63 per cent as higher trading and commission earnings at its investment banking unit were offset by lower interest income.

Europe's second-largest bank said net income rose to DM2.43bn (£830m) from DM1.49bn a year earlier. Most of the gain came from a special DM20-per-share dividend from car-maker Daimler-Benz. Operating profit, which excludes the dividend, rose 7 per cent to DM3.06bn.

"The capital markets have been very strong, so these results are a little disappointing," said Neil Crowder, an analyst at Goldman Sachs, who has a "market outperform" rating on the shares. "I would expect other banks to do better."

Rolf Breuer, chief executive, said the bank was "keen to expand in the US and Asia using a build-and-buy strategy". A US purchase would help fill a vacuum created earlier this month when Credit Suisse First Boston hired 130 Deutsche executives involved in advising the technology industry in one of the largest raids on a rival securities firm.

Deutsche said its global markets division, which is part of investment banking and is run by Edson Mitchell, was one of the best-performing units.

Deutsche Bank shares fell 4.7 per cent to DM146.3, a two-week low, as the German benchmark DAX 30 index fell 3 per cent.

Housing downturn worsens

PROSPECTS FOR the construction industry have deteriorated in recent months, with construction growth hit by higher interest rates and the poorer economic outlook, according to the latest forecasts by the National Council of Building Material Producers.

The BMP said its downgraded forecasts confirm recent industry surveys which have found a marked slowing in key construction markets, like housing, since January.

The BMP forecast that industrial construction will fall 5 per cent next year as the manufacturing recession deepens, and envisages lower private housing starts as higher interest rates dampen confidence.

However, there will be an increase in work on social housing, school and hospital projects through greater public sector investment.

BMP's forecast panel chairman Charles Novotny said: "The private sector contribution to construction growth over the next three years will be weaker than previously anticipated due to a flat housing market and a deepening recession in manufacturing."

Noting that the private sector has been the "main driver for the construction industry in recent years", BMP is now forecasting that private housing starts will fall back to 155,000 homes in 1999, "reflecting weaker general housing market and higher rates."

Mr Novotny said the growth in private housing repair maintenance and infrastructure will also "slow sharply" next year in response to the present downturn.

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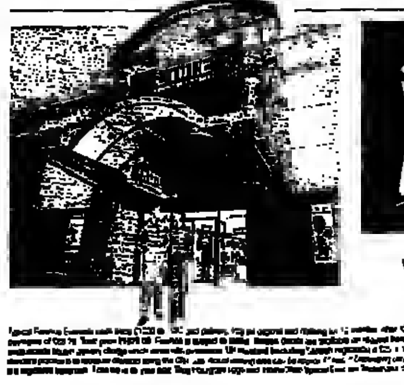

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -0.527%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
694	422	Allied Domecq	578.0	-1.0	4.5	16.0	1000
795	479	Diageo	726.0	-4.5	2.4	30.9	
	157	Matthew Clark	193.5				

BANKS -1.088%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
1238	715	Abbey Nat	1068.0	-35.9	3.5	30.4	2321
1001	592	Alliance Leic	848.0	-32.8	3.1	18.8	2233
1356	1218	Barclays	1762.0	-85.0	2.8	23.7	1004
808	403	Bk of Scotl	681.0	-10.0	1.8	18.8	2858
982	577	Halifax	743.5	-11.0	2.9	37.3	3333
2370	1303	HSBC (75P)	1511.0	-41.0	4.1	12.1	5933
2259	1208	HSBC (HK$10)	3442.0	-35.0	4.3	11.5	5929
1118	622	Lloyds TSB Gp	846.0	-18.0	2.5	38.2	6356
1244	769	Natwest Bk	1164.0	-34.0	3.3	38.2	1602
1181	581	Ryl Bk Scot	1002.0	-13.0	2.8	38.3	3219
1094	483	Standchartd	877.0	-14.0	3.4	13.8	1443
388	258	Woolwich	310.0	-12.8	3.8	20.3	3377

BREWERIES PUBS & REST -0.465%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
1176	647	Bass	1034.0	19.0	3.4	32.7	1005
720	288	Compass	607.5	-40.5	1.8	38.9	4653
951	569	Scot&New B	892.0	-18.5	3.5	18.1	1421
1142	806	Whitbread	811.0	1.0	3.6	14.8	1488

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION -1.419%

BUILDING MATERIALS -2.438%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
452	277	Blue Circle	325.0	-2.8	4.5	13.3	2671
1400	735	RMC	844.0	-21.0	3.9	12.1	1390

CHEMICALS -2.575%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
182	115	Albright & Wil	115.0	-2.0	6.2	24.0	3956
110	91	Amberley Gp	105.5	0.0	2.2	10.4	5193
3195	750	BOC	804.0	-26.0	3.5	13.6	1066
1279	887	ICI	718.0	-27.0	4.5		1092
253	180	Victrex	193.5	-1.5	3.2	17.4	
685	595	Wolstenholme	607.5	0.0	5.5	9.7	3289
240	158	Yorks Gp	164.0	-2.5	7.3	20.3	1509
440	266	Yule Catto	330.5	-3.5	3.8	13.6	3310
240	188	Zotefoams	211.5	0.0	4.0		4028

DISTRIBUTORS -0.428%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
212	80	Abacus Polar	89.0	-2.5	0.7	6.0	6582
164	100	Abbeycrest	155.5	5.0	3.6	12.0	1530
258	153	Actn CrpSpls	233.5	0.0	1.5	23.6	7608
410	280	Adam&Harvey	303.5	-6.5		4.9	
735	530	Bramner	575.5	-1.0	3.7	12.5	
650	340	BSG	346.0	0.0	7.9	10.9	
306	225	Evans Halshaw	243.5	-2.5	11.0	5.2	3676

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS -1.576%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
736	481	BAT Ind	685.5	-6.0	4.2	21.4	
253	125	BTR	148.5	-3.0	8.4	8.5	1002
385	268	Tomkins	335.0	-6.0	6.5	33.7	1482
570	341	General Elec	501.0	-1.0	2.9	20.5	1746

ELECTRICITY -0.357%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
623	155	Br Energy	596.0	4.0	3.3	22.4	4514
451	248	National Grid	431.0	8.0	3.5	28.3	4443
887	420	Nat Power	525.0	-8.0	6.4	13.6	6825
900	585	PowerGen	822.0	-11.0	4.4		6026
831	385	Scottish Pwr	597.5	-2.5	4.3	41.5	6826

ELECTRONICS 0.151%

ENGINEERING 1.065%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
560	328	Brit Aero	505.0	-8.0	1.2	62.5	1010
194	121	Brit Steel	124.0	3.5	30.8	10.9	4530
1668	986	Siebe	1088.0	2.8	1.6	18.7	1429
1820	784	Smiths Inds	758.0	-29.0	3.3	37.4	1437

ENGINEERING VEHICLES -3.395%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
157	97	Adwest	172.5	0.0	6.4	10.0	3409
701	565	Avon Rubber	577.0	-3.0	3.7	20.9	1090
968	485	GKN	748.0	-24.0	2.8	19.3	1828
607	357	Henlys Grp	530.0	-8.0	3.9	16.1	

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES -2.431%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
1878	665	Rio Tinto	682.0	-38.0	4.7	12.9	6699

FOOD PRODUCERS 1.553%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
668	412	Assc Brit Fds	575.0	-10.0	3.3	38.0	1062
883	554	Cadbury-Schw	871.5	-22.5	2.1	23.7	3018
712	383	Unilever	633.5	-18.5	1.7	40.9	5088

GAS DISTRIBUTION 1.285%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
121	71	Centrica	100.5	-1.5			1818
338	238	BG	396.0	8.5	2.5		7274

HEALTH CARE 1.059%

HOUSEHOLD GOODS -0.505%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
1333	703	ReckittB&C	1153.0	-8.0	2.1	21.8	1046

INSURANCE 0.765%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
3287	870	CGU	3348.0	18.0	3.6	22.1	1321
494	259	GRE	398.5	-2.3	3.6	3.6	7668
832	488	Royal&SunA	605.5	-2.8	3.6	18.0	7482

INVESTMENT TRUSTS -0.669%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
687	400	3i	508.5	1.3	2.1	33.1	1470
3090	2225	Alliance	2882.5	-15.0	2.5		1068

MAIN MOVERS

RISES	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Powerscreen	104.50	11.50	12.40
DBS Mogant	170.00	12.50	7.94
Liberty Plc	215.00	15.00	7.50
Dawson Intl	27.00	1.50	5.88
Admiral Plc	1367.50	75.00	5.80
Smith&Nephew	168.75	9.50	5.80
Brit Telecom	868.00	43.00	5.70
Vaux Group	350.00	18.00	5.42
Wyko Group	124.50	5.50	4.62
Securicor	540	20	3.85

FALLS	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Luminar Plc	767.50	-87.50	-9.97
Cobrdge Anth	202.00	-18.00	-8.82
JJB Sports	457.50	-45.00	-9.05
Ideal Hrdwre	225.00	-20.00	-8.16
BTG Plc	429.00	-33.50	-7.24
Rank Group	280.00	-21.00	-6.98
Pillar Property	298.50	-21.50	-6.72
Beot(Henry)&So	210.00	-15.00	-6.67
Mcleod Russel	138.50	-9.00	-6.10
Aggregate Inds	57.75	-3.75	-6.10

MARKET LEADERS

TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm

Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
Brit Telecom Plc	31.96m	Scalos Plc	12.87m	BAT Inds	7.69m	Morrison (WM) Sup	6.19m
Vodafone Group	22.01m	Rexspur Plc	11.96m	Billiton Plc	7.31m	Caronca Plc	6.14m
Belgo Group Plc	20.46m	Shell Transp-Reg	10.98m	Unilever Plc	6.89m		
Great Univ Store	16.76m	Rugby Group	9.78m	Royal & Sun Alain	6.76m		
Southern Electric	15.46m	Asda Group	8.99m	Lloyds TSB Group	6.62m		
Tesco Plc	14.59m	SmithKline Beecha	8.43m	Cable & Wireless	6.48m		

FTSE 100 INDEX

HOUR BY HOUR

Open	5892.3		11:00	5911.6	Up 19.3	15:00	5855.0 Down 37.3
9:00	5892.3	Up 0.0	12:00	5912.6	Up 20.3	16:00	5854.4 Down 37.9
10:00	5902.4	Up 10.1	13:00	5910.0	Up 17.7	Close	5836.1 Down 56.2
			14:00	5860.5	Down 31.8		

LEISURE & HOTELS -1.744%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
5151	1217	788 Granada Grp	986.0	-28.0	1.0	18.6	1235
2873	408	288 Ladbroke	382.0	1.8	2.8	23.4	1842

LIFE ASSURANCE -1.162%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
803	396	Legal&Gen	708.5	-26.5	2.8	18.0	1036
556	280	Norwich Un	438.5	-6.5	2.2	15.9	3388
994	493	Prudential	843.0	-4.0	2.3	19.9	7481
660	313	SunLife & Prov	525.0	-6.0	2.6	61.0	

MEDIA -0.589%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
517	333	BSkyB	475.0	2.0	1.6	28.3	3332
623	423	Carlton Comms	548.0	-2.0	2.0	18.5	2142
635	418	EMI	498.0	-3.0	3.2	47.5	1176
1198	692	Pearson	1348.0	-7.0	2.1	172.2	1574
743	478	Reed Intl	550.5	-2.5	4.3	78.5	1396
781	512	Reuters	630.0	-7.0	2.6	22.8	3047
971	581	Utd News	845.0	-10.0	2.6	17.3	1480
475	248	WPP	421.5	-6.5	0.8	27.0	3383

OIL INTEGRATED -0.168%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
972	734	BP	824.0	4.5	3.5	19.0	1811
432	373	Shell	352.5	1.0	2.6	22.4	3383

OIL, EXP. & PROD. -1.611%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
	475	Enterprise Oil	514.0	-1.5	4.2	24.5	1198
322	214	LASMO	214.8	-5.5	1.1	58.0	1310

OTHER FINANCIAL -0.207%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
775	352	Amvescap	633.0	4.5	1.3	30.5	3124
1788	813	Schroders N/V	1365.0	-62.0	1.4	23.4	2917
2850	952	Schroders Ord	1569.0	-31.0	1.2	27.3	1418

PAPER & PRINTING -1.024%

PHARMACEUTICALS 2.262%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
2100	3081	Glaxo Wllcm	1799.0	-81.0	2.8	32.7	3084
941	450	SBeech	798.0	33.5	1.6	29.7	1683
3851	1820	ZENECA	2328.0	-71.0	2.7	30.2	1585

PROPERTY -1.352%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
117	73	Allied Ldn	87.5	-2.0	5.0	8.2	1547
155	139	Asda Prop	165.0	0.0	2.3	20.0	1592
191	130	Ashtenne Hldgs	162.5	-2.5	3.8	11.5	
279	210	Benchmark Gp	231.5	-3.5	0.9	27.2	2653
280	222	Bilton	231.5	0.0	6.2	14.1	1685
197	149	Bisby	165.0	2.5	6.0	11.1	2139
64	33	Bree End Prop	50.0	0.0	3.0	50.0	2355
323	232	Bradford Prop	232.0	-0.5	4.9	15.4	2693

RETAILERS, FOOD -0.776%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
223	140	ASDA	208.5	-4.5	2.3	28.2	1081
444	318	Safeway	372.0	3.5	4.7	38.8	1070
571	419	Sainsbury	538.0	-6.8	3.2	28.6	1050
206	134	Tesco	390.0	-1.0	2.5	24.3	1056

RETAILERS, GENERAL -1.132%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
1289	752	Boots	1037.0	11.5	2.7	21.3	1009
815	505	GUS	724.5	1.8	3.4	17.8	1237
589	336	Kingfisher	481.0	-14.8	3.0	16.6	5980
673	508	Marks & Sp	511.0	-13.5	3.5	17.6	1830

SUPPORT SERVICES -1.882%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
1368	388	Acmeral	1367.5	75.0	0.3	78.8	5458
1021	415	AEA Techno	1020.0	0.0	1.2	43.4	
122	68	Alpha Airprts	93.0	-0.5	7.2	20.7	1159
79	32	Amia Gp	67.5	-0.5	6.5		1936
605	281	Atkins WS	656.0	2.5	1.5	33.6	1075
215	115	BNB Res	146.5	-3.0	6.5	8.7	1654
790	416	BPP	765.0	0.0	2.6	38.5	3530
501	338	BTG	429.0	-24.5	0.5		4227
958	438	Business Post	910.0	0.0	2.0	35.8	3362
552	237	Capita Gp	513.0	20.0	0.5	78.9	5263
191	70	Cedardata	182.5	1.0	1.8	30.7	1623
2298	611	CMG	2227.5	22.5	0.2	115.4	4714
499	200	Compel	475.0	0.0	1.5	29.0	3275
823	690	Computer Center	711.0	-4.0			
261	176	Corporate Svs	227.0	0.5	3.2	16.7	2970
460	266	Davis Serv	386.0	-1.5	3.7	19.5	1170
225	143	Dawson Holdings	151.0	0.0	4.1	11.7	
649	235	DCS Grp	610.0	22.5	0.5	38.9	3657
630	545	Delphi	545.0	-5.0	1.0	18.9	6047
1350	328	Diagonal	1300.0	0.0	0.3	114.0	1958
65	33	Division Grp	49.5	-0.5			1673
1275	405	Eidos	792.5	0.0		12.4	7869
1975	525	FI Group	1880.0	32.5	0.5	80.0	4012
455	105	Harvey Nash	402.5	0.0	1.4	35.0	2042
1100	582	Hays	918.0	-44.0	1.3	38.8	6084
326	210	Hogg Robin	261.5	-1.0	4.9	18.4	6177
273	182	Hunting	269.5	0.0	3.7	13.7	3641
1270	515	JBA Hldgs	572.5	0.0	1.1	96.7	2361
330	207	Jrnsn Ser Gp	292.5	0.0		12.2	2374
105	40	Kalamazoo Cmp	47.5	0.0			2387
1190	525	Kewill Svs	1172.5	0.0	1.2	38.3	2395
2145	673	Logica	2115.0	2.5	0.0	69.9	1305
1620	314	Lon Bridge Sw	1570.0	-5.0	0.2	156.5	1932
261	89	Lynx Grp	237.0	-1.0	1.1	34.9	5329
165	88	M-R Grp	149.5	-0.5	3.3	20.5	3590
1433	415	MMT Comp	1167.5	-62.5	1.3	39.2	2521
555	313	Macro 4	485.0	0.0	6.9	13.0	2538
97	30	MDIS	89.0	0.0		563.9	1105
95	38	Mnmore Abbey	92.0	0.0	1.4	19.1	2777
721	325	Micro Focus	457.5	-10.0		34.5	2597
138	65	Microgen	125.0	0.0		17.0	2591
3719	1385	Misys	2982.0	-115.0	0.5	55.3	6847
336	173	MITIE Grp	287.5	-3.0	1.1	27.0	2295
65	33	Orois	59.0	-0.5	3.4	24.6	7813
863	427	Parity	792.5	-5.0	0.0	37.9	6766
404	109	Photo-Me	380.0	-5.0	1.0	45.2	6312
55	20	Proudfoot	42.5	0.0	1.6	10.1	
750	267	PSD	477.5	0.0	2.2	18.4	1846
608	203	Quality Stores	495.0	0.0		24.5	6769
158	122	Quantica	125.0	0.0			3368
193	100	Reed Exec	144.5	0.0	2.6	7.7	6478
208	105	Reliance Sec	190.0	0.0	4.0	12.3	5682
461	280	Rentokil Grp	418.0	-20.0	2.8	40.0	7779
232	136	Ricardo Grp	227.5	-1.0	3.6	133.0	2842
403	156	RM	386.5	-1.0	0.8	61.5	3807
576	250	Robert Walters	376.5	3.5	1.3	17.4	3493
510	255	Rolfe & N	302.5	-5.0			1401
345	173	RPS Grp	317.5	7.5	1.9	28.0	6371
1805	670	Sage	1535.0	-2.5	0.2	65.0	6601
135	90	Salvesen (C)	121.5	0.5	7.5	38.3	1411
160	82	Sanderson B	142.0	-1.5	4.8	30.2	7600
1059	801	Select Appts	1039.0	-8.5	0.4	44.6	5695
838	300	Serra Gp	682.0	12.0	0.3	69.0	1814
1440	713	Serco Gp	1380.0	1.5	0.0	57.7	7502

TELECOMMUNICATIONS 2.559%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
921	369	BT	868.0	43.0	4.5	32.5	1812
860	431	Cble & Wrless	798.0	-1.0	1.5	34.0	1015
740	205	Orange	540.0	20.0			
800	295	Vodafone	825.0	-3.0	0.8	58.7	3577

TOBACCO -0.835%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
736	481	BAT Inds	685.5	-6.0	4.2	21.4	1003

TRANSPORT -1.083%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
782	440	BAA	672.0	12.0	2.5	25.4	7389
728	407	Br Airways	623.5	-18.0	3.3	18.6	6258
3028	605	P & O	898.0	-2.0	3.5	12.8	1002
3683	753	Railtrack	1406.0	-77.0	2.1	35.7	4511
1583	836	Stagecoach	1267.0	2.8	1.2	25.6	1006

WATER -0.969%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
975	735	Anglian	895.0	-25.0	5.4	21.6	4073
1568	1155	Bristol Water	1510.0	0.0	4.7		
503	423	Dee Valley Wtr	430.0	0.0	5.1		3025
335	260	East Surrey	292.0	10.0	5.1	7.0	5726
1054	822	Hyder	932.5	-2.5	6.1		4219
775	585	Mid Kent Hldgs	720.0	-5.0	5.5	9.8	
1081	772	Severn Trent	1057.5	3.0	5.0	245.1	4095
3675	2525	South Staffs	3535.0	10.0	2.6	13.9	5297
1145	755	South West	1114.5	13.5	4.5		4017
3299	773	Thames	3338.0	3.8	4.2	40.9	4011
977	638	Utd Utilities	913.5	-8.5	5.8	224.0	4019
619	452	Wessex	606.5	5.0	4.2	15.9	4072
345	272	York Waterwks	295.0	2.5	5.1	33	5726
583	417	Yorkshire	529.5	-2.0	4.5	45.4	4076

AIM -0.955%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
343	200	A. de Gruchy Hldgs	275.0	0.0	3.5	15.2	
271	159	Access Plus PLC	230.0	0.0			
37	33	Albemarle & Bond	34.5	0.5			
139	117	AstCO Corporation	120.0	-1.0		4.3	
333	288	Alto Street Group	317.5	0.0	4.5	9.3	
108	75	Antonov	81.0	0.0			
161	100	Aortech Intl PLC	104.5	0.0			
480	190	Ask Central	350.0	0.0	1.3	46.0	
26	13	AtlanticCaspianRes	15.5	0.5			
77	39	Avalon Oil PLC	40.5	0.0			
110	28	Barbican Hlthcare	27.5	0.0			
13	7	Barrasford Hldgs	8.2	0.0			
188	121	BKTM Adv Comm	187.5	0.5			
233	144	BCD Technologies	215.5	0.0			
318	215	BSR	295.0	3.3			
157	68	Benz Info Software	123.5	0.0			
262	185	C.A. Coutts	187.5	-4.0	2.4	14.8	
88	35	Card Clear	59.5	0.5	0.5	73.5	
35300	19500	Celtic	25300.0	0.0			
113	73	Chanl Isl Dom(TV)	105.0	0.0			
87	48	Charden Amlefic	60.0	0.0			
126	70	Chelsea Village	77.5	0.0			
28	15	Chorion	19.5	0.0			
123	93	Citadel Holdings	120.0	0.0	2.5		
36	19	Coffee Republic	23.0	0.0			
318	106	Corbbo PLC	290.0	0.0	1.1	22.5	
369	106	Computerland UK	292.5	-12.5	2.9	23.5	
170	103	CRC Group	143.5	0.0		25.2	
400	163	Deep-Sea Leis	360.0	0.0		32.2	
406	330	Dobbies Garden	315.0	0.0	1.3	13.3	
264	125	Dragons Health C	217.5	-2.0	1.0	24.0	
213	57	Easynet	182.5	1.5			
463	168	Electronic Retailing	222.5	0.0			
130	77	Enterprise	85.0	0.0		15.9	
398	122	Euro Sales Finance	345.0	2.5		35.7	
524	85	Fibernet Group	495.0	-23.0			
414	150	Fitness First	387.5	-5.0		58.1	
44	27	Freepages Grp	41.5	-1.0			
63	46	Gail Thomson Env	57.5	0.0	3.1	9.3	
	11	Garber Holdings	10.8	-0.3			
180	95	Gartld W&S	154.5	-9.0	3.2	9.7	
202	134	GB Railways Grp	253.5	-5.0	2.5	7.8	
194	25	Geo Int Media Grp	132.0	-1.5			
29	15	Gold Mines of Sard.	22.5	-0.5			
70	15	Golf Club Hldgs	32.0	0.0		4.6	
172	124	Gooch & Housego	146.5	2.0	2.4		
175	160	Goode Group	172.0	0.0			
255	140	Hardy Underwriting	249.0	-1.0	3.0	12.0	
415	225	Hercules Property	297.5	0.0	1.3	22.2	
145	85	HighlandsSystemGrp	125.0	-8.0	1.0	22.6	
626	91	Independent Energy	507.5	-2.2			
333	145	Infobank Intl Hldgs	197.5	0.0			
99	61	Inner Workings Grp	95.5	0.0			
180	10	Intelligent Env Grp	72.5	0.0			
180	38	Internet Tech Grp	129.0	-3.5			
648	278	Intl Greetings	595.0	0.0	1.6	17.7	
180	60	IOC International	83.5	0.0		104.4	
390	135	IS Solutions	375.0	0.0	0.3	34.7	
416	329	Jennings Brothers	342.5	0.0	3.2		
320	104	K S Biomedix	289.5	0.0			
200	159	Kingfisher Leisure	190.5	0.0	1.3	20.7	
428	383	Lawrence	415.0	0.0	2.7	14.6	
4950	3550	Lawrie Group	4850.0	0.0	2.0	7.1	
582	406	Le Riche Group	540.0	0.0	6.0	13.8	
50	0	London Town	50.0	0.0			3721
518	275	Majestic Wines	452.5	-2.5	1.4	26.0	
39	14	Medisys	32.5	0.0			
		Megalomedia	44.0	0.0	0.7	19.1	
44	22	Memory Corp	26.5	0.5			
180	61	Metalsrussia Grp	81.5	0.0			
169	40	Minorplanet Sys	126.5	1.5			
380	260	Moorepay Group	262.5	0.0	2.2	23.2	
68	45	NMT Group PLC	50.5	9.0			
83	47	Nottingham Forest	48.5	0.0			
375	123	NSB Retail Sys	327.5	0.0		47.5	
161	147	Nursing HomeProps	160.0	0.0	5.5	25.4	
33	11	Oxford Biomedica	15.0	0.5			
155	86	Para Diamonds	141.5	-1.0			
211	163	Policy Master Grp	207.5	0.0			3722
298	123	Polydoc PLC	195.0	-2.5			
152	107	Polymasc Pharma.	126.5	-4.0			
7	1	Presbury Grp	4.8	-0.2			
515	285	Prem Rail	412.5	-7.5	4.2	8.5	
119	53	ProtomeSciences	109.5	-3.0	0.6	12.3	4674
119	53	Q Group (The) PLC	189.5	-3.0	0.0	12.3	
1178	620	Ramco Energy	785.0	5.0		481.6	
35	89	Rapid Tech Grp	90.0	0.0			
105	101	Razorback V Corp	104.5	0.0			
358	105	SBS Group	272.5	0.0	0.7	28.0	
244	148	Science Systems	223.5	0.0	0.3	32.9	
48	11	Stair Energy	11.5	0.0			
100	63	Sports&Outdoor	95.5	0.0			3724
847	727	Southern Newsp	797.5	-5.0	3.3	15.4	
950	262	Staffware	577.5	-12.5	0.4	58.5	
107	103	Stentor					
175	78	Style Holdings	156.5	0.8	0.7	15.0	
145	118	Touchstone Grp	133.5	0.0			3745
955	475	TRACKER Network	735.0	0.0	0.0	25.7	
49	23	Victory Corp	23.0	0.0			
108	56	Waterfall Holdings	63.5	0.0		17.0	
305	83	Westmount Energy	116.5	-8.5		83.2	
205	151	World Telecom	101.0	-7.5			
480	215	Zergo	460.0	0.0			

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RECENT ISSUES

Stock	Price	Chg(p)
Ambient Media	70.5	-1.5
Coca-Cola Beverages	185.0	0.0
Estmuir Prop	207.5	0.0
Guardian IT	534.0	0.0
IOC Computers	224.5	0.0
JWE Telecom	198.5	-4.5
Quadrica	125.0	0.0
Salvatore	84.5	-0.5

source: Bloomberg www.bloomberg.com/uk

SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. Prices reflects the offical closing mid price. Sector movements are based on the FTSE-350. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the shareprice divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptionals.
Other details: r Ex rights, x Ex-dividend; a Ex-all; s Suspended; p Partly Paid; np Nil Paid. * AIM. Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics
Source: Bloomberg

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BT rings up big gain as Footsie fades

MARKET REPORT

FRANCESCO GUERRERA

BT FOUGHT a valiant battle to prop up Footsie yesterday, riding high on the wave of excitement generated by its long-awaited transatlantic deal with its US rival AT&T. But the flurry of brokers' buy notes and target price upgrades only managed to keep the blue-chip index in positive territory till lunchtime.

By then, the BT story had run out of steam and Footsie succumbed to another sluggish start from Wall Street, hounded once more by Asian worries and a general midsummer apathy, to close 56.2 lower at 5836.1, within a whisker of its intra-day low.

The telecoms giant had a 5.21 per cent gain to 868p and a couple of £10 target prices from Morgan Grenfell and Panmure Gordon to show for its efforts. It was also the most demanded blue chip stock by a mile with more than 32 million shares traded.

BT's gutsy performance in the face of adversity was seen as a ringing endorsement of other telecom stocks, with Orange putting on 18.5p to close at 685.5p.

Bass had a frothy day, closing 19p higher at 1,034 as the market greeted with enthusiasm a report that the brewer could sell its gaming machines unit to Schroder Ventures and Panmure provided a top-up with a buy note. BAA, the airport operator was also in good shape, flying 12p higher at 672p as good first quarter results and an increase in passengers combined with an ABN Amro buy note to lift sentiment.

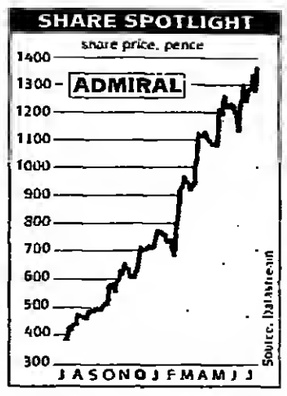
BG rounded up a good day for privatised utilities, putting on 12p to 396p. The market liked yesterday's decision by the DTI to merge the electricity and gas regulators, although it remains to be seen whether the new DTI boss, spinmaster Peter Mandelson, will like the idea as much as his predecessor Margaret Beckett.

In the post-lunch blues the bears took charge and mauled Rank after whispers that Thursday's results will be poor and that the chief executive, Andrew Teare, will struggle to retain his job. The pub and bingo operator closed at the top of the Footsie fallers' chart, shedding almost 7 per cent to 280p. Glaxo Wellcome had the same sickly pre-results look and lost 81p to 1,700p. Dealers are scared that the expiry of patents for a couple of its star drugs could hamper growth and are awaiting Thursday's results with apprehension.

Railtrack jumped on the losers' bandwagon, dropping 77p to 1,406p as fears mounted that a regulatory squeeze to be announced today could harm profits.

Unlike Footsie, which had a see-saw performance, the second-liners headed southwards from the word go. In the end, the mid cap closed 23.2 lower at 5497.4, its lowest of the day, just like the small cap, which lost 13.6 to 2506.4.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Building materials producers hit a brick wall, on fears that the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott will halve the number of road-building schemes when he concludes his year-long review this week. A leading forecaster's prediction of a turnaround in construction was also a worry. Aggregate Industries lost 6 per cent to 57.75p, Bryant Group lost 6p to 94p, Tarmac was down 5.8 per cent to 96p, Hanson shed 17p to 330p, Rugby Group was down 4.7 per cent to 55.5p and Marley shed 5.5p to 92p.

But the top spot in the FTSE-250 fallers' table belonged to JJB Sports, which lost more than 9 per cent to 457.5p amid rumours of a stock overhang following its rights issue to finance the takeover of rival Sports Division. BTG, the property rights group lost 7.24 per cent, or 33.5p, to 429p, on the day it demerged its engineering division, Torotrak, which in turn closed at 299.5p, down from the 300p offer.

Admiral, the highly regarded IT company, bucked the trend and soared 75p to an all-time high of 1,367p on optimism about today's results, while resurfacing bid speculation helped Vaux, the hotels and pub group, to an 18p rise to 350p. London & Manchester, the insurer, rose 13.5p after a 25 per cent increase in new business prompted a couple of buy notes.

Therapeutic Antibodies, the biotech minnow whose main product is an antidote to rattlesnake venom, suffered when uncontrolled rumours of funding problems caused a bout of selling. The market-maker's reassurances that it had simply marked the shares down to find a "new support level" did little to dispel the fears and the shares closed a poisonous 30.6 per cent lower at 80p.

Shoe shop chain Stylo's story was more straightforward as a profit warning sent the shares tumbling 22.1 per cent to 40.5p.

Middlesex Holdings, a trading outfit chaired by the former Foreign Secretary Lord Owen, shot up 18.75 per cent to 4.75p as a Russian steel producer in which it has a controlling stake bought part of a giant iron mine.

Cairn Energy, the oil exploration company, rose 4p to 256.5 after winning permission to drill in Bangladesh in partnership with Shell. Tullow Oil also benefited from the Bangladeshi effect and firmed 19.5p to 133p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 667.7m
SEAQ TRADES: 64,408
GILTS INDEX: n/a

DIAGEO, the vodka-to-burgers giant formed from last year's merger of Guinness and Grand Met, lost 4.5p to 726p after a unappetising note from Salomon Smith Barney. Analyst Adam Spielman started coverage with a warning that the shares are overbought. He believes that in the next couple of years, profits at Guinness, Burger King and Pillsbury will be hit by the strong pound and tough markets. Although merger savings and a spirited performance in drinks businesses should prop up group earnings, Mr Spielman rates Diageo an "underperform", with a 12-month share price target of not more than 705p.

BOOTH INDUSTRIES, the elevator-maker, got a 4.5p lift to 54.5p, after the £3.1m cash and shares acquisition of CHB Holdings, an engineering outfit. The purchase will increase Booth's turnover fourfold to £20m and more than double its profits to £1m.

Torotrak is a punt on the 21st century

INVESTMENT
EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

TOROTRAK, the car transmissions company spun-off from the formerly state-owned BTG technology group, may not be a suitable investment for widows and orphans. But for stock market enthusiasts looking for a more speculative element to their portfolio, it could be an intriguing prospect.

Shares in Torotrak started trading yesterday and closed at 299.5p, valuing the business at £343m.

It is also raising £50m through a five-for-29 rights issue for the development of manufacturing capabilities.

In a sense, trying to value Torotrak is like looking at a biotechnology share. It has an interesting technology in what should be a fast-expanding area, but it is anyone's guess what the take-up will be.

Torotrak's big idea is a fuel-efficient transmission system for cars. This ought to be a money spinner as vehicle manufacturers and governments seek to crack down on pollution. But the financial benefits could take a while to arrive.

BTG, which retains a 5 per cent stake, spent £12m over 12 years on Torotrak and its technology is already being worked on by a dozen of the world's leading car markers. The first use of Torotrak's equipment is likely to be in the year 2000 but only on agricultural machinery, analysts say.

It could be 2002-3 before car manufacturers start fitting the systems and profits might not appear until 2004.

Torotrak's house broker, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, is optimistically forecasting profits of £600m in 2018, which shows you just how far ahead people are having to think when valuing this company.

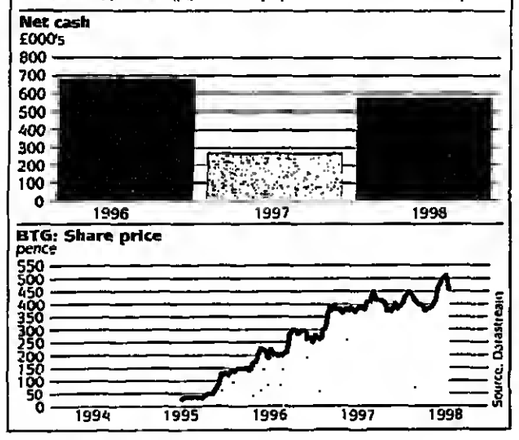
Back in this century, however, potential shareholders face a difficult task trying to balance hope against reality. Delays in taking the system to the mass market would prove costly.

But for the bold, the combination of an interesting technology in a growth market make the shares worth a look.

TOROTRACK: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £343m, share price: 299.5p

Trading record	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	1.70	3.30	1.70
Operating profit (£m)	-0.23	.73	-1.72
Earnings per share (p)	-0.27	.72	-1.78
Dividends per share (p)	-	-	-



Royalblue reaps rewards in IT

FEW COMPANIES have timed their flotations better than Royalblue. The financial and helpdesk software group joined the market as investors were beginning to wake up to growth in the IT industry. And as a supplier of software for SETS, the Stock Exchange's new trading system which went live last autumn, Royalblue enjoyed an immediate boost to its revenues. Floated at 170p a year ago, the shares have more than doubled in value.

It's not hard to see why. In the six months to June, profits jumped 50 per cent to £1.82m, excluding one-off flotation costs, on a similar rise in turnover.

Fears that Royalblue's growth might slow after the one-off boost from SETS look misplaced. The company has broken into the US market with a big order for Nasdaq trading software from NationsBanc. The Stock Exchange's mooted alliance with Deutsche Börse is also good news, since any move towards a common trading platform would prompt banks to upgrade their software.

But Royalblue is not simply dependent on its trading software. Products for customer helpdesks and call centres account for almost half its turnover, and with revenues rising 69 per cent in the half year the helpdesk segment is the fastest-growing part of Royalblue.

Analysts were sufficiently reassured by yesterday's figures to bump up their full-year profit forecasts to £4.2m. That puts the shares, which rose 7.5p to 375p yesterday, on a forward multiple of 47. Royalblue's growth prospects just about justify that heady rating. But given that just 35 per cent of its revenues recur from one year to another, orders could dry up if the stock market takes a dive. The shares are high enough.

Brewin thrives in private niche

PRIVATE CLIENT stockbrokers tend to prosper when stock markets are buoyant but flag when they are stagnant. So far, Brewin Dolphin has only prospered. Since floating in 1994, Brewin has built itself up by a series of acquisitions to become Britain's biggest independent private client stockbroker. Now it almost looks like a fully fledged stockbroker.

The private client business fills a niche in the money management market for wealthy individuals wanting a personalised service. Money is invested in a fund with a fixed mandate – say for growth, value or momentum.

This niche sector has thrived in recent years. Increasing numbers of high earners who have already bought a house, got a pension and saved for school fees now want to play the markets.

Following the acquisition of Wise Speke, the rival private client broker, for £24m in June Brewin now has 22 offices across the country and £12bn under management.

Brewin yesterday declared record first-half profits of £6.2m, up 52 per cent. The figures, which were ahead of expectations, are mostly down to the buoyant market. This may put some nervous investors off: earnings, in the form of commissions and fees, are geared to the stock market and could suffer from a correction.

But the business is more stable than other fund managers. Private client cash is less fickle than institutional money, so profits depend on the volume of transactions as well as the level of the market.

HSBC, the broker, forecasts another big boost in earnings in the year to September, giving earnings per share of 21.7p. At 452.5p, up 2.5p yesterday, the shares are on a forward p/e ratio of just over 20. They deserve their premium rating.

IN BRIEF

Allied to hold back results

ALLIED CARPETS would not release its annual results today as expected, market sources said yesterday. Instead, these sources said Allied is expected to issue a statement giving more details of the reason for the delay. Allied's shares were suspended on 13 July pending the result of an inquiry into compliance with its internal policy for recognition of sales.

Autotote deal

ALPHAMERIC, the information technology group specialising in display and communication systems, said it has been appointed the exclusive distributor of Autotote Corp's newly developed Extrema wagering terminals in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Autotote is one of the world's leading suppliers of wagering technology providing solutions throughout America, Europe and the Far East. Alphameric shares closed up 1.5p at 50.5p.

Hire purchase

HEWDEN-STUART, the crane-hire group, yesterday said it had acquired P&I Hire Centres for £1.53m, funded from cash flow.

P&I Hire Centres had turnover of £2.7m in the year to March 31, 1998.

Hewden-Stuart said it will incorporate the tool hire company's depots into its centres.

Bodycote buy

METALS GROUP Bodycote International has announced that it has bought part of a subsidiary of Rolls-Royce Power Engineering for an undisclosed sum.

The UK business said its materials testing divisions had bought the trade and assets of the mechanical testing business at International Research and Development.

Bodycote, based at Macclesfield, Cheshire, said jobs at the operation would be safeguarded and would continue to be run from existing premises at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The impact of the strong pound and the Asian economic crisis on airport shops has stabilised in recent months and may cease to be a problem within two months

BAA optimistic on sterling

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

BAA, THE country's largest airport operator, yesterday sounded a note of optimism for companies with overseas earnings when it claimed that the negative effect of the strong pound and the Asian economic crisis on its business would disappear within two months.

In a bullish statement, the group, which runs London's Heathrow and Gatwick hubs, said that the impact of the two factors on its airport shops' sales has "stabilised" in recent months and "should soon become a lesser factor in year-on-year comparison."

The company's retail operations, mainly duty-free shops, have suffered in the past as sterling's strength pushed up prices and the Far Eastern turmoil reduced the number of high-spending Asian travellers going through its hubs.

However, a company spokesman said that the two problems would stop having a negative impact from "August or September" as BAA benefits from a favourable comparison with last year, when earning were hit by the Asian crisis.

His comments came as BAA reported a 3.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the first quarter to £141m.

The results were driven by a 7.5 per cent growth in passengers numbers to 28.6 million, with revenue paid by airlines to use the airport up 7.4 per cent to £146m.

UK retail revenue rise 6.8 per cent to £120m.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
BAA (I)+	483m (367m)	141m (136m)	10.4p (0.3p)	- (-)	-	-
Brewin Dolphin (I)	29.562m (23.592m)	6.2m (4.08m)	17.7p (11.6p)	3.5p (3.0p)	01.10.98	01.09.98
Clarkwal Holdings (F)	6.7m (59.6m)	2.0m (3.71m)	1.5p (2.7p)	nil (-)	-	-
English & O'seas Properties (I)	5.847m (2.219m)	0.770m (0.052m)	2.19p (0.30p)	0.33p (-)	15.09.98	03.08.98
Hibernian Group (I)	- (-)	IR23.98m (IR18.42m)	33.7p (25.5p)	5.6p (-)	17.09.98	03.08.98
Jacobs Holdings (I)	38.9m (29.8m)	5.33m (1.03m)	4.3p (0.8p)	0.55p (0.5p)	14.09.98	03.08.98
Lawrence (F)	17.7m (15.0m)	2.91m (2.19m)	28.42p (23.77p)	7.05p (6.95p)	01.10.98	03.08.98
Littlewoods (F)	2.288bn (2.284bn)	191.1m (74.7m)	- (-)	- (-)	-	-
Moneycorp Group (I)	3.2m (2.7m)	1.141m (0.886m)	7.14p (5.69p)	nil (-)	-	-
Royalblue (I)	13.31m (8.89m)	1.82m (1.21m)	3.5p (2.7p)	1p (0.75p)	05.10.98	01.09.98
RPS (I) =	12.16m (9.92m)	2.51m (1.76m)	7.9p (6.1p)	2.75p (2.3p0	20.10.98	tba
Snakeboard Intl (SP)**	1.251m (-)	-2.5m (-)	-0.39p (-)	-	-	-
Stardata (I)	5.994m (6.5m)	0.245m (0.632m)	0.21p (0.53p)	nil (-)	-	-
Topps Tiles (F)	31.3m (24.4m)	4.13m (2.51m)	14.2p (8.4p)	3.5p (4.7p)	01.10.98	14.09.98
Total Office Group (I)	34.5m (30.8m)	1.4m (1.61m)	5.31p (6.83p)	1.8p (0.7p)	11.09.98	03.08.98

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (N) - Nine Mnth † EPS is pre-exceptionals *Dividend to be paid as a FID **Period is 14 mths to end Dec 97 =nb. pretax profit before goodwill amortisation

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6035	0.6044	0.6065	0.3383
Australia	2.7168	2.7131	2.7047	1.6395	1.6398	1.6403	0.9191
Austria	20.807	20.772	20.694	12.557	12.554	12.550	7.0392
Belgium	60.973	60.780	60.358	36.795	36.735	36.605	20.627
Canada	2.4917	2.4860	2.4757	1.5034	1.5025	1.5015	0.8428
Denmark	11.265	11.232	11.166	6.7978	6.7888	6.7719	3.8109
ECU	1.4967	1.4924	1.4835	1.1072	1.1087	1.1115	0.8406
Finland	8.9856	8.9547	8.8945	5.4225	5.4122	5.3942	3.0399
France	9.911	9.877	9.810	5.9812	5.9696	5.9492	3.3530
Germany	2.9559	2.9456	2.9255	1.7838	1.7803	1.7742	1.0000
Greece	491.61	493.83	497.30	296.67	298.47	301.60	166.31
Hong Kong	12.839	12.854	12.885	7.7480	7.7690	7.8140	4.3435
Ireland	1.1740	1.1730	1.1698	1.4116	1.4106	1.4095	0.7913
Italy	2916.4	2910.1	2895.6	1760.0	1758.8	1756.1	986.63
Japan	235.76	234.29	231.52	142.27	141.60	140.41	79.757
Malaysia	6.8608	6.9719	7.0338	4.1403	4.2138	4.2658	2.3210
Mexico	14.720			8.8830			4.9798
Netherlands	3.3331	3.3213	3.2983	2.0114	2.0074	2.0003	1.1276
New Zealand	3.2384	3.2322	3.2184	0.5117	1.9535	1.9518	0.2869
Norway	12.502	12.479	12.431	7.5445	7.5423	7.5388	4.2295
Portugal	302.50	301.70	299.87	182.55	182.34	181.86	102.33
Saudi Arabia	6.2151	6.2091	6.1946	3.7506	3.7528	3.7568	2.1026
Singapore	2.8514	2.8482	2.8422	1.7207	1.7215	1.7237	0.9646
South Africa	10.2823	10.4195	10.6247	6.2050	6.2975	6.4435	3.4785
Spain	250.92	250.27	248.81	151.42	151.26	150.90	84.886
Sweden	13.089	13.053	12.976	7.8987	7.8889	7.8695	4.4260
Switzerland	2.4848	2.4728	2.4499	1.4995	1.4945	1.4858	0.8406
US	1.6571			1.0000			0.5606

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
			Oman	0.6379	0.3850
Argentina	1.6571	1.0000	Pakistan	80.369	48.500
Brazil	1.9320	1.1659	Philippines	69.764	42.100
China	13.721	8.2799	Poland	5.7071	3.4440
Czech Rep	52.199	31.500	Qatar	6.0314	3.6398
Egypt	5.6491	3.4090	Russia	10316.3	6225.5
Ghana	3869.3	2335.0	South Korea	2063.1	1245.00
Hungary	343.68	207.40	Taiwan	56.923	34.351
India	70.493	42.540	Thailand	67.858	40.950
Indonesia	23116.5	13950.0	Turkey	447997	270350
Kuwait	0.5077	0.3064	UAE	6.0865	3.6730
Nigeria	139.20	84.000			

INTEREST RATES

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.63%	Discount	2.75%
Italy		Prime	6.50%	Spain		Central	3.30%
Discount	5.00%	Discount	5.00%	10-d Repo	4.25%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%
SpAdvance	3.30%	Discount	3.75%	Repo(Ave)	4.10%	Lombard	4.00%

BOND YIELDS

Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.97	0.00	5.04	0.02	5.19	0.02	5.39	0.00	5.55	-0.01
Belgium	3.61	0.00	3.84	0.00	4.08	0.02	4.35	0.00	4.87	-0.01
Canada	4.96	0.03	5.25	0.01	5.27	0.02	5.34	0.01	5.40	0.01
ECU	4.13	0.00	4.09	0.00	3.95	0.01	4.41	0.00	4.78	-0.01
France	0.00	0.00	3.68	0.00	4.03	0.02	4.39	0.00	4.77	0.00
Germany	3.53	0.00	3.82	0.00	3.92	0.02	4.39	0.02	4.65	-0.01
Italy	4.39	-0.04	4.37	0.05	4.36	0.02	4.61	0.00	4.93	-0.01
Japan	0.47	0.01	0.47	-0.02	0.56	-0.02	1.01	-0.05	1.62	-0.05
N'lands	3.50	0.00	3.80	0.00	4.00	0.00	4.37	0.01	4.75	-0.01
Spain	4.17	0.00	4.02	0.01	4.15	0.00	4.49	0.00	4.92	-0.01
Sweden	4.20	0.00	4.16	0.00	4.25	0.00	4.56	-0.01	4.89	-0.01
S'land	2.06	-0.01	2.25	-0.04	2.18	0.01	2.47	-0.02	3.10	-0.01
UK	7.35	0.00	7.94	0.00	6.90	-0.05	6.36	-0.02	5.93	-0.01
US	4.93	-0.01	5.05	-0.01	5.46	0.01	5.46	-0.01	5.45	-0.01

MONEY MARKET RATES

	Overnight Bid	Overnight Offer	1 week Bid	1 week Offer	1 month Bid	1 month Offer	3 months Bid	3 months Offer	6 months Bid	6 months Offer	1 year Bid	1 year Offer
Treasury Bills					7.40	7.30	7.45	7.35				
LIBOR												
Domestic Depos	7.44	7.56	7.44	7.56	7.47	7.53	7.66	7.72	7.75	7.81	7.817	8.88
Eurostering Deps	7.38	7.50	7.38	7.50	7.47	7.53	7.66	7.72	7.75	7.81	7.817	8.88
Eligible Bank Bills					7.46	7.38	7.51	7.43	7.51	7.43		
Sterling CDs					7.52	7.46	7.75	7.66	7.81	7.71	7.857	7.75
Eurodollar CDs					5.56		5.59		5.64			
ECU Deposits					4.03	4.16	4.00	4.13	3.75	4.13		

www.bloomberg.com/uk Source: Bloomberg

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open Interest
Long Gilt	Sep-98	107.74	107.95	107.59	37674.00	152543.00
5 Yr Gilt	Sep-98	102.68	102.76	102.72	6.00	2548.00
German Bund	Sep-98	109.16	109.23	109.07	3716.00	77833.00
Italian Bond	Sep-98	121.06	121.18	120.96	12382.00	104410.00
Japan Govt Bd	Sep-98	132.97	132.97	132.84	1660.00	0.00
3 Mth Sterling	Sep-98	92.16	...	92.13	19916.00	184909.00
	Dec-98	92.23	92.23	92.18	22744.00	178584.00
3 Mth Euromark	Aug-98	96.45	.	...	..	16846.00
	Sep-98	96.40	96.40	96.39	79854.00	472700.00
3 Mth Euroliira	Sep-98	95.45	95.50	...	32577.00	182062.00
	Dec-98	96.07	96.08	96.06	6159.00	151508.00
3 Mth Euroyen	Sep-98	99.21	.	...		0.00
3 Mth Euroswiss	Sep-98	97.98	97.99	97.93	12687.00	96037.00
	Dec-98	97.80	..	97.75	4461.00	51671.00
3 Mth Euro	Aug-98	95.88	.	...	...	1.00
	Sep-98	95.88	95.89	...	161.00	16890.00
FTSE 100	Sep-98	5860.00	5960.00	5855.00	19254.00	183712.00

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

Settlement Price 5836.10

Series	Aug Call	Aug Imp Vol	Aug Put	Aug Imp Vol	Sep Call	Sep Put	Oct Call	Oct Put	Dec Call	Dec Put
5750	80	15	215	18	170	253	265	301	346	348
5800	65	7	247	18	144	284	205	325	393	984
-1										
5850	55	15	295	24	120	332	183	377	285	...

ENERGY AT 5:30PM

Brent Crude($/barrel)Gas oil($/tonne)

IPE	Last*	Chg	Vol	IPE	Close	Chg	Vol
Sep	12.88	0.04	13425	Aug	112.50	2.00	6174
Oct	13.18	0.11	3345	Sep	116.25	1.75	2780
Nov	13.51	0.12	806	Oct	121.00	2.00	851

WTI Crude($/barrel) Products($/tonne)

NYM	Last*	Chg	Spot CIF NW Eur	
Aug	13.79	0.00	Gasoline 95	155.50
Aug	13.79	0.00	Naphtha	126.00
Sep	14.02	0.13	Gasoil	112.50
Oct	14.33	0.14	Fuel Oil (3.5%s)	60.50

GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES AT 5:30PM

	BASE DATE	LAST	CHG	%CHG	31 DEC	%CHGYTD
Index	1970=100	145.59	-0.15	-0.10	215.26	-32.37
Agricultural	1970=100	186.78	-1.78	-0.94	231.23	-19.22
Energy	1983=100	50.09	0.21	0.42	85.86	-41.66
Ind Metals	1977=100	148.27	0.00	0.00	168.79	-12.16
Livestock	1970=100	151.78	-0.66	-0.43	191.03	-20.55
Prec Metals	1973=100	393.53	-1.34	-0.34	463.54	-15.10

INDUSTRIAL METALS

LME ($/tonne)	Cash		Chg	3 month		Chg	LME stocks	Chgs
Aluminium HG	1365	1366	-15.00	1377	1378	-18	484500	-2475
Aluminium Alloy	1278	1283	-62.00	1237	1240	-25	62860	780
Copper A	1727	1728	-29.00	1742	1743	-30	256525	125
Lead	555	557	-12.00	556	558	-6	107375	375
Nickel	4575	4585	-85.00	4630	4635	-85	61434	-66
Tin	5640	5660	-70.00	5500	5520	-75	6765	-30
Zinc	1089	1090	-20.00	1111	1112	-18	368775	-1075

PRECIOUS METALS

pm fix/$ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	pm fix/£ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	Coins ($)		Year's chg
Platinum	376.00	-7.00	-45.00	Platinum	226.65	-4.50	-26.80	Krug'rands	292.85	-28.35
Palladium	304.00	-5.00	99.00	Palladium	183.25	0.00	62.40	Sovs	68.45	
Silver	5.63	-0.05	1.31	Silver	3.39	-0.06	0.81	Nobles	386.05	
Gold	290.65	-3.95	-33.45					Maple Leaf	302.35	-32.95

AGRICULTURAL AT 5:30PM

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Lge Potatoes	
LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	AIA	$/25k kg
Jul98	1046.00	Jul98	1510.00	Sep98	68.00	Nov98	80.00	Apr99	621.00
Sep98	1061.00	Sep98	1532.00	Nov98	71.10	Mar99	112.50	May99	596.25
Dec98	1090.00	Nov98	1510.00	Jan99	72.75	Apr99	154.00	Jun99	568.50
Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0
White Sugar*		Freight		Wheat		Corn*		Soya Beans*	
LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	$10k pt	LIFFE	$/tonne	CBOT	Cents/bshl	CBOT	$/5k bshls
Aug98	257.90	Jul98	832.00	Jul98	75.00	Jul98	221.00	Jul88	24.90
Oct98	247.50	Aug98	805.00	Sep98	69.25	Sep98	222.75	Aug98	27.50
Dec98	247.50	Oct98	910.00	Nov98	71.00	Dec98	228.25	Sep98	5.00
Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0

OTHER SPOTS AT 5:30PM

Aug	Live Cattle	(CME)	$/40k lb	61.15	Dec	White Maize	(SAF)	$/100 mt	776.00
Aug	Pork Bellies	(CME)	$/40k lb	60.45	Jul	Rubber	(TOM)	Y/ 5k kg	111.60
Sep	Orange Juice	(CTN)	$/15k lb	105.80	Dec	Cotton	(CTN)	$/50k lb	70.90
...	Milk	(CSC)	$/50k lb	.	Aug	Crude Palm	(KLC)	$/25 tn	2410.00
Sep	Oats	(CBT)	$/5k bsh	113.50	Dec	Soya Oil	(CBT)	$/60k lb	24.30
Nov	Flax	(WCE)	$/20 tn	..	Jul	Woollen tops	(TOM)	$/500kg	1255.00

SPORT

Football: New era of player freedom has forced the smallest clubs in England to deal with the biggest problems

Bosman transfers power to richest

BY GUY HODGSON

IT WAS a normal day in the market. Everton bought Olivier Dacourt for £3.8m and Newcastle closed in on the Peruvian winger, Nolberto Solano. Nothing extraordinary – quite mundane as transfers go in these cash-plenty times – but more reason for alarm in clubs in a different financial league.

The common factor in the above deals, and in almost every large-sum move is the direction of the money – not downwards but abroad. Strasbourg of France not Southend of Essex will benefit from Goodison's largess while Boca Juniors will take the money once St James' Park plunders its riches for Solano.

It is a story repeated ad nauseum if you are holding the purse strings at a smaller club. Examine the transfers costing more than £500,000 this year and the trickle from the élite to clubs in the bottom two divisions has all but dried up. Newcastle are reported to be offering Peterborough a £4m package to buy the 16-year-old winger Matthew Etherington – which would supplant the £2.3m deal that West Ham paid Rochdale's goalkeeper Stephen Bywater as a record for a YTS boy – but that is an exception.

In general the cash is flowing offshore or between the Premiership and the First Division, exacerbating the gap between the top and the bottom and imperilling clubs from the lower orders who have to sell to survive. Foreign imports, Bosman, escalating wages, a whole bank of disadvantages are ganging up on the hard-up, and, unlike society, the poor may not always be with us.

"I can see a time when the Third Division becomes a glorified Vauxhall Conference," said Steve Wignall, the manager of Colchester United, a club whose purchasing power is illustrated by their record fee, £50,000 for Mark Gregory.

"A lot have players have gone down to that level already because clubs cannot afford their wages. We haven't been affected yet but it's probably just a matter of two or three years."

The Bosman ruling, which allows footballers to move without a fee if they are out of contract, has proved to be a twin-edged sword. "I would say 10 per cent have benefited," Wignall said. "People like Steve Staunton [who joined Liverpool on a free transfer from Aston Villa] are minting it, and good luck to him, but there are a lot of players who are worse off."

The obvious danger of Bosman was that smaller clubs would stop youth development rather than spend money on grooming, only for bigger clubs to cherry-pick their crop for nothing. That has been addressed partly by rules introduced in England this year which means players aged 24 or under will command a fee no matter whether they are under contract, but the system is not entirely fair, as Carl Serrant's transfer from Oldham Athletic to Newcastle United this month illustrates.

Serrant, 22, is an England B defender and Oldham – a Second Division club who were in the Premiership four years ago and who are expected to announce a £1m operating loss for the financial year ending 31 May – would have anticipated receiving double that under the old system. Under the current system they got £500,000.

Although Oldham were entitled to money for a move between two English clubs, the fee was beaten down because Serrant could have gone abroad for nothing. For a business that received precisely that when out-of-contract Chris Makin moved to Marseilles, Oldham had no choice but to accept the cut-price offer.

The reaction has been one of anger and dismay, particularly as Newcastle paid £1.5m for Stoke City's teenage full-back Andy Griffin in January. "We heard Feyenoord were interested in Carl," Oldham's manager Andy Ritchie said, "and after a lot of soul searching we decided we had no option but to agree to the Newcastle move. We feel cheated but this has been forced upon us. We couldn't risk him going abroad."

The impact on the club's strategy is greater than a sense of grievance. "We can't now rely on transfers to balance our books," Alan Hardy, Oldham's chief executive, said. "The Serrant episode means it's important we live within our means.

"We have been accused by some of our supporters of lacking ambition but we signed players initially on reasonable salaries to get us back in the Premiership and latterly to get us in the First Division. We have made some progress to reduce the wage bill but it's difficult when players are under contract and impossible to do it at a stroke."

If Oldham, who were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1994, are struggling, they are not alone. The dilemma is either to put players on long contracts and reasonable salaries with the incumbent drain on resources or to risk losing prize assets for nothing. If money was tumbling down the divisions it would help. Instead it is either going to the Continent or lining the White Feather's nest egg with £40,000-a-week wages.

Even those successfully walking the line are worried. Along the M62 from Oldham, Bury are surviving in the First Division with gates of around 6,000 and this month they sold Paul Butler to Sunderland for £900,000. How long they can defy gravity is dependent on factors beyond their control.

"We're very susceptible to wage levels at other clubs," Bury's chairman, Terry Robinson, said. "If they escalate then ours are affected too because players can walk out on us when their contract runs out. It means we have to sell players when we don't want to."

They then have to find a buyer or a fee that is acceptable. Bosman and the availability of international players at cut price means the odds are now in favour of the purchaser. You cannot blame the lesser Premiership clubs who have to compete with the financial heavyweights somehow – Derby County spent millions of Lionel Pickering's money on English players but did not get promoted until they began to buy from abroad – but the victims will be the lower clubs.

The logical outcome is a growing divide with the rich getting more and the poor going part-time. The sad thing is there does not seem to be a remedy.

Chelsea's Pierluigi Casiraghi (left) and Marcel Desailly (centre), and Manchester United's Jaap Stam (right) cost their new clubs £20.75m combined, a figure that demonstrates not only the widening gulf between Premiership and lower division clubs' spending power, but also the flow of money out of the English game and into foreign pockets *Empics*

PLAYERS IN MOTION: ENGLISH CLUB TRANSFERS OF MORE THAN £500,000 IN 1998

JANUARY

PLAYERS MOVING TO ENGLAND: Andreas Andersson Milan to Newcastle £3m **Andy Hinchcliffe** Everton-Sheff Wed £3m **Valerian Ismael** Strasbourg-Crystal Palace £2.75m **Daniele Dichio** Sampdoria-Sunderland £750,000.

PLAYERS MOVING WITHIN ENGLAND: **Trevor Sinclair** QPR-West Ham £2m **Andy Griffin** Stoke City-Newcastle £1.5m **Jan Aage Fjortoft** Sheff Utd-Barnsley £850,000 **Matt Carbon** Derby-WBA £800,000 **Shaun Derry** Notts County-Sheff Utd £700,000 **Wayne Collins** Sheff Wed-Fulham £500,000

PLAYERS MOVING ABROAD: Faustino Asprilla Newcastle-Parma £6.1m **Emerson** Middlesbrough-Tenerife £4.2m **Patrick Blondeau** Sheff Wed-Bordeaux £1.2m **Brian Deane** Sheff Utd-Benfica £1m **Pierre Laurent** Leeds-Bastia £500,000.

FEBRUARY

PLAYERS MOVING TO ENGLAND: **Moussa Saib** Valencia-Tottenham £2.3m **Hamilton Ricard** Deportivo Cali-Middlesbrough £2m **Martin Hiden** Rapid Vienna-Leeds £1.3m **Marco Branca** Internazionale-Middlesbrough £1m **Theo Zagoraids** PAOK Salonika-Leicester £750,000.

PLAYERS MOVING WITHIN ENGLAND: **Gary Speed** Everton-Newcastle £5.5m **Callum Davidson** St Johnstone-Blackburn £1.75m **Alan Armstrong** Stockport-Middlesbrough £1.5m **John Beresford** Newcastle-Southampton £1.5m **Don Hutchison** Sheffield Utd-Everton £1m **Matt Jansen** Carlisle-Crystal Palace £1m **Sasa Curcic** Aston Villa-Crystal Palace £1m **Dele Adebola** Crewe-Birmingham £1m **Tony Thorpe** Luton-Fulham £800,000 **Darren Purse** Oxford-Birmingham £600,000 **Rory Delap** Carlisle-Derby £500,000 **Kyle Lightbourne** Coventry-Stoke £500,000 **James Quinn** Blackpool-WBA £500,000.

MARCH

PLAYERS MOVING TO ENGLAND: Nikolaos Dabizas Olimpiakos-Newcastle £2m **Philippe Clement** Racing Genk-Coventry £625,000.

PLAYERS MOVING WITHIN ENGLAND: **Paul Gascoigne** Rangers-Middlesbrough £3.45m **Mark Kennedy** Liverpool-Wimbledon £1.75m **Andy Roberts** Crystal Palace-Wimbledon £1.6m **Lars Bohinen** Blackburn-Derby £1.45m **Jamie Pollock** Bolton-Man City £1m **Jonathan Greening** York-Man Utd £1m **Neil Emblen** Crystal Palace-Wolves £900,000 **Marlon Beresford** Burnley-Middlesbrough £500,000 **Vinnie Jones** Wimbledon-QPR £500,000 **Eddie Youds** Bradford-Charlton £550,000 **Matt McKay** Chester-Everton £500,000 **Shaun Goater** Bristol City-Man City £500,000.

MAY

PLAYERS MOVING TO ENGLAND: Jaap Stam PSV Eindhoven-Man Utd £10.75m **Pierluigi Casiraghi** Lazio-Chelsea £5.4m **Horacio Carbonari** Rosario Central-Derby £2.7m **Clyde Wijnhard** Willem II-Leeds £2m **Jean-Guy Wallemme** Lens-Coventry £700,000 **Yorgos Yoryadis** Panathinaikos-Newcastle £500,000.

PLAYERS MOVING WITHIN ENGLAND: **John Spencer** QPR-Everton £1.5m **Ade Akinbiyi** Gillingham-Bristol City £1.2m **Jimmy Corbet** Gillingham-Blackburn £525,000.

PLAYERS MOVING ABROAD: Georgi Kinkladze Man City-Ajax £5m **Savo Milosevic** Aston Villa-Real Zaragoza £3.5m.

JUNE

PLAYERS MOVING TO ENGLAND: Marcel Desailly Milan-Chelsea £4.6m **Stephane Guivarc'h** Auxerre-Newcastle £3.5m **Sebastien Perez** Bastia-Blackburn £3m **Albert Ferrer** Barcelona-Chelsea £2.2m **Sean Dundee** Karlsruhe-Liverpool £2m **Paolo Tramezzani** Piacenza-Tottenham £1.35m **Claude Darcheville** Rennes-Nottingham Forest £700,000 **David Grondin** St Etienne-Arsenal £500,000.

PLAYERS MOVING WITHIN ENGLAND: **Kevin Davies** Southampton-Blackburn £7.5m **Alan Thompson** Bolton-Aston Villa £4.5m **Danny Granville** Chelsea-Leeds £1.6m **Gareth Ainsworth** Port Vale-Leeds £1.5m **Neil Redfearn** Barnsley-Charlton £1m **Tony Thorpe** Fulham-Bristol City £1m **Chris Powell** Derby-Charlton £825,000.

PLAYER MOVING ABROAD: Jon Dahl Tomasson Newcastle-Feyenoord £2.5m.

JULY

PLAYERS MOVING TO ENGLAND: Marco Materazzi Perugia-Everton £2.8m **Claus Jensen** Lyngby-Bolton £1.6m **Ricardo Gardener** Harbour View-Bolton £1m **Laurent Charvet** Cannes-Newcastle £520,000 **Olivier Dacourt** Strasbourg-Everton £3.8m **Vegard Heggem** Rosenborg-Liverpool £3.5m **Jesper Blomquist** Parma-Man Utd £5m.

PLAYERS MOVING WITHIN ENGLAND: **Gary Pallister** Manchester United-Middlesbrough £2.5m **Stuart Ripley** Blackburn-Southampton £1.5m **Dean Gordon** Crystal Palace-Middlesbrough £900,000 **Paul Butler** Bury-Sunderland £900,000 **Ian Wright** Arsenal-West Ham £750,000 **Graeme Murty** York-Reading £700,000 **Mark Hughes** Chelsea-Southampton £650,000 **Rodney Jack** Torquay-Crewe £650,000 **Carl Serrant** Oldham-Newcastle £500,000 **David Unsworth** West Ham-Aston Villa £3m.

PLAYERS MOVING ABROAD: Viorel Moldovan Coventry City-Fenerbahce £4m **Fernando Nelson** Aston Villa-Porto £1.1m **Patrick Valery** Blackburn-Bastia £800,000.

Compiled by Hoyters

Schumacher Snr recommends Ralf

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP
in Zeltweg

RALF SCHUMACHER is the driver Williams need to lead them into a bright new era. That, at least, is the way Michael Schumacher sees it.

Williams are a team in turmoil or transition, depending on your perspective. The undisputed facts are that last year they won the constructors' and drivers' championships, but this season they are only fourth in the team standings and do not have a driver who figures in the top six.

Jacques Villeneuve, the reigning champion, is leaving to join the new British American Racing team and Williams officials have expressed their dissatisfaction with the form of Heinz-Harald Frentzen.

They have been rebuffed by their former driver and champion, Damon Hill, and would appear to have little chance of enticing another ex-employee, David Coulthard, from McLaren-Mercedes.

They are widely expected to sign Alex Zanardi, the CART champion, but that leaves another seat vacant and the limited options have forced them to suggest Frentzen may not necessarily be leaving.

Schumacher Snr, however, recommends another German. His little brother. According to a confidant, Michael has told Ralf not to rush into a new contract with Jordan, and that he should wait for an opportunity at Williams.

Ralf's recent form has undoubtedly raised his profile and with it his market value. He had a stirring fight with Michael in Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix here before finishing fifth, his second successive points-scoring performance. Hill was seventh and has still to get off the mark with Jordan.

Williams are unlikely to challenge McLaren and Ferrari for the championship next season, but then the same can be said of Jordan and every other team in the pit lane. In the year 2000 Williams launch their partnership with BMW and then it would be reasonable to assume the only way is up.

Ralf is beginning to curb some of his wilder tendencies and clearly has the pace and aggression of a front-line driver, if not the sublime talent of his brother. He is the right nationality for Williams' new engine partners and, at 23, is the right age to plan a long-term alliance.

Williams might prefer to have a Briton on board, hence their approach to Hill, and there remains a lobby for Coulthard. But the Scot's splendid drive from the back of the field to second place behind team mate Mika Hakkinen on Sunday here has presumably reinforced his position at McLaren. He is already focusing on a championship challenge next year, having effectively conceded this season's title to the Finn.

Johnny Herbert would relish a chance to drive for Williams, yet seems to have been given little encouragement. It is difficult to argue against Michael Schumacher's assertion that Ralph is as good as, if not better, than any one available to Williams.

Even Zanardi has to be something of a risk. He may be on course for a second title in north America, but the crossover is not always easy or successful. Witness Michael Andretti.

The Italian, of course, made 25 grand prix appearances earlier in his career, so the move would not be a culture shock. His cars were unexceptional, but he scored only one point and few at the time lamented the defection of a superstar.

Hill, meanwhile, has an option to drive on with Jordan and they are negotiating. There persists a school of thought that the Englishman could link up with his former team-mate Villeneuve, at BAR.

Meanwhile, McLaren are awaiting today's outcome of their appeal against the result of the British Grand Prix.

McLaren lodged an appeal with the sports's governing body, the FIA, against the victory of double world champion Michael Schumacher saying he should not have been allowed to win the race after he finished in the pit lane a fortnight ago. The International Court of Appeal will publish its decision in Paris this morning.

The race stewards admitted that they made mistakes in applying a 10-second time penalty to Schumacher for passing another car under a yellow caution flag, including not displaying it on the official race timing screens seen by all teams. They rescinded the time penalty and "in view of all the circumstances" imposed no alternative penalty.

Schumacher was leading Mika Hakkinen's second-placed McLaren in the closing laps, and took the penalty by going into the pit lane on his victory lap, leaving Hakkinen to take the chequered flag.

Ralf Schumacher: Williams link

Three spectators killed at US 500

THREE SPECTATORS were killed and six others injured when a tyre and pieces of suspension flew into the grandstand during a crash at the US 500 in Brooklyn, Michigan, on Sunday. The Mexican driver Adrian Fernandez was in third place in the CART race when his car slid into the wall on lap 175 of the 250-lap race, run on a two-mile, high-banked oval. His right front tyre and pieces of the suspension broke off, flying into the crowd in the fourth-turn grandstand. Fernandez was not seriously injured.

It was the first spectator death at the track since 1969 when one fan was killed during a Trans-Am race on the road course. The Canadian Greg Moore won the race in a Reynard Mercedes-Benz. The American Jimmy Vasser and Alessandro Zanardi, of Italy, finished second and third in Reynard Hondas.

Britain's Mark Blundell, who has finished in the top six of every previous 500-mile race he has competed in, could manage only 17th at the Michigan circuit. Blundell lost a lap early on because of handling problems and fell further behind after his third pit stop when his right tyre was wrongly mounted, eventually finishing 10 laps behind the pacesetters.

"That was the longest 500-mile race I've ever run," said the ex-Formula One driver. "We didn't have a good balance on the car in the beginning and ran into a number of problems in the pits that compounded our situation."

Scotland's Dario Franchitti, meanwhile, finished the race back in 21st position.

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Stand-up show is no joke to Aymes

Hampshire's wicketkeeper could be the key to NatWest success in a quarter-final at Lord's today. David Llewellyn met him

ADRIAN AYMES is someone you can count on. A stand-up sort of guy. He stood up to the West Indies fast bowler Malcolm Marshall and needed ice treatment on his hands for months afterwards. But he still did it. That is because Hampshire's Aymes is one of the best wicket-keepers in the country.

Just ask any umpire. They have the best view of him at work and they will tell you that technically Aymes is excellent. He is neat, economical, possessed of a very good pair of bands, has eyesight that a hawk would envy as he homes in on the fastest of deliveries and his leg-side work is dream to watcb.

"I've always liked standing up to bowlers. In the right circumstances I will do so for John Stephenson, Cardigan Connor and Kevan James," Aymes said.

"I did once stand up to Malcolm Marshall, for three balls against Northamptonshire in a Benson & Hedges Cup tie wben Allan Lamb was charging him. I took the first two, the third went off the inside edge of Lamb's bat past leg stump and went for four. That was the game lost. And what was worse I had to put my hands in ice for the next six months."

By standing up to the seamers and swing bowlers Aymes is throwing a doubt into the batsman's mind. "When I am up at the wicket they know there is a risk of being stumped if they give the charge," he said. "But if they stay in their crease then the bowler has a chance of a leg before decision."

In short be is someone against whom batsmen do not want to take any chances and Middlesex will do well to bear that in mind today at Lord's where Hampshire have a dart at reaching the semi-finals of the NatWest Trophy, a competition they won in 1991.

"This match will be like playing an FA Cup quarter-final at Wembley," the 34-year-old Aymes said. "I love Lord's. It's like a hotel, from the changing-rooms right through to the showers and the lunches. And I enjoy playing against Middlesex. They are good competitors and they have a laugh as well, at the right time. So what better place is there to play at than Lord's?"

The enthusiasm is youthful and thoughts of retirement are alien. "As you enter your 30s people start to write you off," he said, "but with all that we now know about fitness and nutrition I think I am fitter now than wben I was in my 20s. The more you practise the better you get. Every year I hope I have improved. My range of shots has increased and my keeping most definitely has.

Sometimes untried older players have a bit more to offer. I am sure that Graham Gooch's last five years in the game were better than his first five."

He trails off. He does not need to say any more. You sense that he still harbours thoughts of catching the England selectors' eye. However, right now the reality is a NatWest quarter-final which Hampshire nearly did not make. It was in the first round, they were at Dean Park, Bournemouth, a ground at which they formerly staged a festival each year until it was dropped a few years ago. This time, as visitors, they had to take on Dorset. Hampshire won the toss and opted to bat. Their supporters sat back in anticipation of the deluge of runs.

Adrian Aymes shows the skilful glovework he hopes will help Hampshire reach the NatWest semi-finals *Robert Hallam*

Instead, four overs saw them reduced to a shambolic 0 for 3. That brought in Aymes to join his captain, Robin Smith. "In that situation a lot of people would think to themselves, 'Crikey, we're struggling against a minor county'.

"The way I looked at it I was grateful for an opportunity to show what I could do. For me cricket is always a case of mind over matter. As long as you believe you will succeed then you will rarely fail through your own fault."

He and Smith, who went on to score a century to lift the man of the match award, put on 179 for the fourth wicket and that was that. Aymes' own contribution was a personal best in the competition of 73 and reinforced the impression that he is not merely a fine wicketkeeper but is that much sought after commodity, a keeper wbo can bat. Already by late June in the run-up to the NatWest be had scored a couple of bundreds and two 50s for Hampshire in the County Championship.

"Tve always known I could bat," said Aymes, who taught himself to speak fluent Cantonese just to wile away the bours during all the driving he does in his winter job of selling sports goods. "Td had a couple of hundreds a couple of years ago but that was when I was down the order. This season I have been batting at No 5 and it has been a different challenge. I am coming in with the recognised batsmen and that gives me an extra two wickets to play with."

The subtle shift in the batting order for Aymes is a reflection on Hampshire's whole season. Tbey have been more imaginative in their approacb and more proactive, resulting in them becoming a consistently more competitive side. The arrival of the West Indies Test fast bowler Nixon McLean coupled with the shrewd signing of Alex Morris from Yorkshire has certainly contributed to a string of maximum bowling bonus points.

McLean's arrival in particular was something special for Aymes. "Nixon is supposed to be the fastest bowler in the world, although Allan Donald may not agree," said Aymes who, but for a knee injury, might well bave become a professional footballer with Bristol City. "So the first time he turned up at Southampton I was really excited. I had had a couple of years with Winston Benjamin, but he only played maybe a dozen games for us and there bad been Malcolm Marshall, but no one really fast for a couple of years. And I have to say Nixon is quick. It's quite interesting watching the batsmen against him because they seem to be in quite a hurry to get up to the other end."

It could also be that the opposition realise the double jeopardy of being on strike. After all look who is behind them, just waiting for a slip. . .

No place for Lewis in World Cup plans

BY MARK BALDWIN

CHRIS LEWIS is the stark omission from a 37-man provisional World Cup squad announced by England's selectors yesterday.

The Leicestershire all-rounder, who was recalled to the international stage for the Texaco Trophy series against South Africa in May, now finds that the uncapped trio of Ian Austin, Mark Alleyne and Vince Wells have moved ahead of him in the pecking order.

Eight players yet to represent England at senior level have been included in a squad named now so the fitness adviser Dean Riddle can start each individual on specific World Cup build-up programmes. The other five new names are the batsman Ben Smith, the wicket-keepers Warren Hegg and Paul Nixon, the fast bowler Ed Giddins and the all-rounder Paul Grayson.

David Graveney, the England chairman of selectors, said: "It is important to stress that this squad selection remains open-ended, as we do not have to name our official provisional World Cup squad until 15 January next year.

"We have plenty of scope to add in-form players to this party over the next few months if appropriate. We will be looking particularly at the upcoming England Under-19 games in which Graeme Swann and Paul Franks, for instance, might make strong cases for inclusion."

On Lewis, who played in the 1992 World Cup final, Graveney would only say that disappointed players had to "roll up their sleeves" in a bid to gain late selection.

England's 14-strong squad for next month's Triangular Tournament against South Africa and Sri Lanka will be taken from this squad – as will the First Class Counties Select XI to play South Africa at Headingley on 12 August. Grayson provides the biggest surprise while Austin, Alleyne and Wells are all experienced county cricketers with a chance to show they can translate that to the international stage.

ENGLAND SQUAD (for forthcoming one-day internationals and also provisional squad for World Cup). Batsmen: M A Atherton (Lancs), C J Adams (Sussex), A D Brown (Surrey), J P Crawley (Lancs), G A Hick (Worcs), N Hussain (Essex), N V Knight (Warwicks), G O Lloyd (Lancs), D L Maddy (Leics), M P Maynard (Glam), M R Ramprakash (Middx), B F Smith (Leics), A J Stewart (Surrey), G P Thorpe (Surrey). **Fast bowlers/seamers:** I D Austin (Lancs), D G Cork (Derbys), A R C Fraser (Middx), E S H Giddins (Warwicks), O Gough (Yorks), D W Headley (Kent), P J Martin (Lancs), C W Silverwood (Yorks). **All-rounders:** M W Alleyne (Gloucs), D R Brown (Warwicks), M A Ealham (Kent), M V Fleming (Kent), A Flintoff (Lancs), A J Hollioake (Surrey), B C Hollioake (Surrey), R C Irani (Essex), V J Wells (Leics). **Wicketkeepers:** W K Hegg (Lancs), P A Nixon (Leics). **Spinners:** R D B Croft (Glam), A F Giles (Warwicks), A P Grayson (Essex), I D K Salisbury (Surrey)

Nottinghamshire planning to upstage Atherton

BY DAVID FIELD

MIKE ATHERTON was willed to his Trent Bridge Test heroics by the Nottingham public, but they will be readjusting their emotions today and hoping their county can achieve what Allan Donald failed to do and dismiss him cheaply in the NatWest Trophy quarter-final at Old Trafford.

Atherton's 98 not out against South Africa steered England to their eight-wicket victory to square the Cornhill series. And despite the intensity of the English programme in which players move from a Test to the knock-out stage of a domestic trophy, the England opening batsman has always shown an appetite for the competition.

In 1996 Atherton left the Lord's Test against India to be told by Lancashire that be could rest from a NatWest tie against Oxfordshire. But be played and scored 79.

Lancashire are virtually certain to be without one of their limited-overs specialists, Neil Fairbrother. He is nursing a damaged ankle, the result of a fielding mishap against Worcestershire at Lytham when he trod on the ball and had to miss the following Championship match against Glamorgan. Indeed, Fairbrother has had an unlucky season with injuries. Twice the former England left-hander has split a finger taking slip catches, and on another occasion he tore a groin muscle playing at home with his young son.

The Lancashire captain, Wasim Akram, is expected to be fit to play despite suffering a toe injury.

England discard John Crawley is in prime form with three successive Championship centuries – only the third Lancashire player to achieve that feat since the war – and could hardly be in better form to look for a fourth against his former county. Nottinghamshire, who have been a Jekyll and Hyde outfit this summer, will welcome back Chris Tolley after his recovery from a shoulder problem. His contribution of 77 and 1 for 26 from 12 overs was significant in the victory over Somerset.

The Hampshire captain, Robin Smith, has recovered from a broken finger and will face Middlesex at Lord's. "It's a big occasion, but I'm confident we have the players in our side to beat anyone," said Smith, who bad to sit out the last-round victory over Essex. "We have a strong bowling attack and Nixon McLean has shown this season he is capable of taking wickets against good teams." Middlesex have beaten Hampshire in their three previous NatWest meetings and reached this stage thanks to a late recovery against Durham in the previous round.

Alec Stewart's Test triumph at Trent Bridge will give him an extra skip in his stride as his county, Surrey, take on Derbyshire at The Oval.

Improving Sri Lanka coast to first win

Leicestershire 245 & 362
Sri Lanka 509 & 99-1
Sri Lanka win by nine wickets

SRI LANKA collected the first victory of their tour with a nine-wicket thrashing of Leicestershire at Grace Road yesterday, setting themselves up for their games with England later in the summer and damaging Leicestershire morale 24 hours before their important NatWest quarter-final against Warwickshire.

The tourists reached their 99-run target with 15.2 overs to spare, but they had to work much harder for the win than they would have anticipated at the start of the final day when Leicestershire were still 30 runs behind with only five second innings wickets remaining.

However, the bome county batted for another three and a half hours and 53 overs, adding a further 128 runs to total 362.

Although it was a frustrating period for the tourists the victory target of 99 in 40 overs was a comfortable one for them and they reached it with a minimum of fuss for the loss of Sanath Jayasuriya. He was out for 30, having shared an opening stand of 53 with Russel Arnold, who made an unbeaten 44.

After the draw with Somerset and the two-day defeat by Glamorgan, Sri Lanka have bounced back well and will now be in buoyant mood for the one-day tournament with England and South Africa, and the Test against England at The Oval next month.

Most of their leading batsmen have found form while off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan took another five wickets in Leicestershire's second innings to boost his tour tally to 18 from two games.

Having claimed four of the first five wickets to fall, Muralitharan picked up only one more to finish with 5 for 108 in 55 overs. He was also no-balled on 10 occasions as Sri Lanka conceded 65 extras.

It was a determined effort from Leicestershire's tail-enders, with all-rounder Jon Dakin making 42 tn follow his first-innings 79 and the 4 for 110 be took in the Sri Lankan innings. But the man of the match award went to the Sri Lankan captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, for his brilliant 110.

Leicestershire's luck has changed in recent weeks after they were at one stage chasing a treble of Championship and two one-day titles. They underperformed in the Benson & Hedges Cup final at Lord's earlier this month when they went down easily to Essex after failing to exploit some favourable early bowling conditions. Today they face Warwickshire and Brian Lara at Grace Road in the NatWest with a chance to atone for recent setbacks.

Their coach, Jack Birkinshaw, said: "It's a massive game for us and one we dearly want to win. We are just two games away from another cup final at Lord's and after the disappointment of losing in the Benson and Hedges it would be great to go back there for another crack at a trophy."

The home side will be without injured fast bowlers David Millns and James Ormond, while Warwickshire's England one-day player Dougie Brown will be absent with a finger injury.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Vodafone Challenge Series

Leicestershire v Sri Lanka

LEICESTER (Final day of 4): Sri Lanka beat Leicestershire by 9 wickets
Leicestershire won toss

LEICESTERSHIRE — First innings 245 (Dakin 79)

SRI LANKA — First innings 509 (Tillakaratne 120, Ranatunga 110, Hathurusinghe 60, Dakin 4-110)

LEICESTERSHIRE — Second innings
Overnight 234-5 (Smith 75, Muralitharan 4-77)
Second innings Contd

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Min
†P A Nixon b Perera	38	0	4	134	163
J M Dakin c Tillakaratne b Wickramasinghe	42	0	5	105	135
O Williamson lbw b Wickramasinghe	34	0	2	100	126
D J Millns c D P M Jayawardene b Muralitharan	14	0	1	50	48
C D Crowe lbw b Perera	23	0	2	61	75
M T Brimson not out	2	0	0	30	29

Extras (b4 lb22 w5 nb34) 65
Total (136.5 overs) 362
Fall: 1-53, 2-59, 3-64, 4-148, 5-203, 6-267, 7-288, 8-315, 9-351
Bowling: G P Wickramasinghe 30-7-99-2, S A Perera 25.5-5-77-2, U C Hathurusinghe 10-3-21-0, M Muralitharan 55-21-108-5, S T Jayasuriya 4-1-5-0, R P Arnold 3-0-11-0, P A de Silva 9-3-14-1.

SRI LANKA — Second innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Min
S T Jayasuriya c Williamson b Crowe	30	1	4	37	54
R P Arnold not out	44	0	6	83	90
D P M Jayawardene not out	21	0	3	30	35

Extras (lb2 nb2) 4
Total (for 1, 24.5 overs) 99
Fall: 1-53.
Did not bat: P A de Silva, *A Ranatunga, H P Tillakaratne, U C Hathurusinghe, †P W Jayawardene, G P Wickramasinghe, M Muralitharan, S A Perera.
Bowling: D J Millns 10-2-49-0, J M Dakin 5-0-21-0, C D Crowe 7-2-20-1, M T Brimson 2.5-0-7-0.
Umpires: N T Plews and J F Steele.

Today's fixtures

NATWEST TROPHY - QUARTER FINAL (ONE DAY): Old Trafford: Lancashire v Nottinghamshire. **Leicester:** Leicestershire v Warwickshire. **Lord's:** Middlesex v Hampshire. **The Foster's Oval:** Surrey v Derbyshire.
TOURIST MATCH (ONE DAY)
Worcester: Worcestershire v Sri Lanka

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Punishment fits the bill

By Greg Wood

ONCE AGAIN, it is time to give thanks for the third Duke of Richmond and Gordon's exquisite taste in garden furniture. It is almost 200 years since he decided to do something with the generously proportioned patch of land behind Goodwood House, and rather than be content with a deck chair or two, the Duke thought big. He installed a racecourse, one which still has few equals anywhere in the world for the beauty of its situation, and any number of struggling punters will be grateful this week for the instant spiritual lift which a gaze across the downs can provide.

And a struggle it will probably be, since for all its aesthetic qualities, Goodwood makes unusual demands of its competitors which can easily surprise the horses, their riders and those who are backing them. It takes a certain type of horse to negotiate a tight, inclined turn at high speed without either ending up in the grandstand or falling off the side of the hill, while the descent towards the home straight is so steep that front-runners often build up an unassailable head of steam.

The draw too can play a significant role, even in races over 10 furlongs like the Chesterfield Cup, the principal betting event on the first afternoon as Glorious Goodwood. With the sharp home turn to negotiate after six furlongs, a good position against the inside rail is likely to be a major advantage, which a horse drawn in a low-numbered stall is unlikely to enjoy.

This does not, of course, mean that it is impossible for Badlesmere or Almond Rock, from stalls one and two respectively, to win this afternoon, and the latter in particular deserves his prominent place in the morning betting. Their task is that much more difficult, however, and it makes more sense to look for a horse with both good recent form and a useful position at the start.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: China Red (Goodwood 5.35)
NB: Perfect Paradigm (Goodwood 2.45)

Front-runners do so well at Goodwood that Anak-Ku, a 16-1 chance who has the highest draw of all, is hard to ignore, but his poor run in the Magnet Cup at York earlier this month is too fresh in the memory. Just two boxes away, though, is Punishment, who was runner-up behind Yavana's Pace in one of the strongest handicaps of the season at Sandown three weeks ago, and has not suffered as seriously as the winner from the wrath of the handicapper. This is a desperately difficult race, but at around 12-1 this morning, Punishment (3.50) is a reasonable bet.

The Pattern-race interest today is at Group Three level, although the Gordon Stakes, opening the card, may prove to be one of the strongest such races of the season. The Gordon is often a poorly contested consolation event for Derby also-rans and St Leger outsiders, but this year's renewal is a fascinating meeting between six three-year-olds who already have promising form, at the very least, to their name.

Victory for any of them would hardly rate as a surprise, so the short price chalked up against Henry Cecil's Hitman this morning is best avoided. Of his rivals, Nedawi (2.15) has the greatest scope for improvement and is the one to support.

Both form and sentiment will combine to make Lochangel, a half-sister to Lochsong, the favourite for the King George Stakes, and she will be hard to catch over one of the fastest sprint courses in the country. Her wide draw is not ideal, though, while the most accomplished horse in the race, Carmine Lake, is saddled with a 10lb penalty for her victory in last year's Prix de l'Abbaye. Land Of Dreams (next best 3.20), who had no luck at all in the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot, has a better position close to the rails.

Fantail, who contests the 14-furlong handicap, is another who suffered a troubled passage last time out, when third behind Perfect Paradigm in the Old Newton Cup. Most bookmakers expect him to reverse those placings today, but PERFECT PARADIGM (nap 2.45) had something in reserve that day and improved significantly in a first-time visor. It may prove to be no coincidence that John Gosden won this race 12 months ago with Media Star, another horse who found his best form only when blinkered.

Carmine Lake, has a burden to blunt her speed at Goodwood today *Phil Smith*

Chandler puts his case

THE BOOKMAKER Victor Chandler yesterday issued a statement claiming that the Metropolitan Police had "discontinued its investigation into me and into Victor Chandler Limited into allegations of horse doping and fixing the results of races".

Last Monday, Chandler, whose London headquarters were searched by police while he was in Gibraltar last month, took out an application for a judicial review of the validity of the warrants used to authorise the search. The police did not oppose the application.

In his statement, Chandler said he voluntarily attended an interview with the police. "I am delighted to announce that following that interview, tha Metropolitan Police has confirmed to me that it has discontinued it's investigation into me," Chandler said.

"I am innocent of any unlawful or improper activity and the Metropolitan Police has confirmed that there is no evidence against me whatsoever.

"It is a compliment to the Metropolitan Police that it has so speedily resolved this particular investigation, and I shall not be seeking damages from them nor taking any other form of action against them."

The police action was part of an ongoing investigation into allegations of doping and race fixing launched after Avanti Express and Lively Knight were found to have been doped in March last year.

Most of those arrested during the course of the investigation, including the jockeys Jamie Osborne and Dean Gallagher remain on bail. No charges have been made.

■ John Morgan yesterday announced that he is resigning as chairman of Satellite Information Services after being appointed only 16 months ago. The 60-year-old said: "SIS is a company where it is important that the chairman has a sound working relationship with all shareholders. Unfortunately, this has not always been the case and certain relationships have broken down and are unlikely to be rebuilt."

■ The British Horseracing Board have appointed their first public relations director. Peter Bell, controller of programme policy at BBC News, will join the board in December.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

GOODWOOD

2.15: Only six runners but a very tough race to call. RABAH, *best on firm ground*, gets a narrow vote from Nedawi.

❑❑❑

2.45: Kieren Fallon and Frankie Dettori have excellent chances on Street General and Perfect Paradigm. But the double-figure odds available on FAHS, near the foot of the handicap, appeal more. This six-year-old has been contesting 1m 2f events of late and has yet to prove he stays today's 1m 6f. But his flop at this trip, two years back, was in soft ground. Geoff Lewis's stable has been showing distinct signs of a return to form and Pat Eddery has been booked.

❑❑❑

3.20: Lady Alexander was a very speedy juvenile who has won on this track. She contested a Group Three event at Leopardstown last time and cannot be ignored. This prize, though, may well go to a filly running from an adjacent stall, LAND OF DREAMS. Darryll Holland's mount finished only 14th in the 19-runner King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot but had no luck in running there, never seeing daylight from within a ruck of horses. Lochangel should come out best of the high-drawn runners.

❑❑❑

3.50: Yavana's Pace reappears quickly after finishing runner-up to Song Of Freedom at Ascot on Saturday. This chestnut was outpaced before making up a huge amount of ground in the closing stages. Rain would help this one's prospects. Almond Rock, Kewarra and SUPPLY AND DEMAND are closely matched on recent Windsor form. The latter finished third, behind the other two that day, but Kieren Fallon takes over from Candy Morris here.

GOODWOOD

HYPERION

2.15 Rabah
2.45 Fahs
3.20 Land Of Dreams
3.50 Supply And Demand
4.25 My Petal (nb)
5.00 ELHIDA (nap)
5.35 Hakeem

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places) Penetrometer reading 3.6.
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; Round course - inside (except 1m 4f - outside). DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 7f & 1m.
■ Right-hand course with sharp bends and gradients.
■ Course is N of Chichester between A286 and A285. Chichester station 4m. ADMISSION: Richmond Enclosure - members and their guests only; Gordon Enclosure £20; Public Enclosure £7 (Accompanied under-17s free Gordon and Public enclosures); Trundle Enclosure free. CAR PARK: £5, remainder free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: R Hannon 34 wins from 337 runners (success rate 10.1%), P Cole 31-146 (21.2%), Sir M Stoute 24-91 (26.4%), H Cecil 23-90 (25.6%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: T Quinn 44 wins from 283 rides (success rate 15.5%), L Dettori 38-183 (20.9%), Pat Eddery 37-197 (18.8%), J Reid 36-251 (14.3%).
FAVOURITES: 227 wins from 658 races (success rate 34.5%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Easycall (visored, 3.20), Supply And Demand (3.50), Arabian Desert (4.25).
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Tadeo & Land Of Dreams (3.20), Yavana's Pace (3.50), Arabian Desert (4.25), Penny Moor (5.00), Asset Manager (5.35) all sent 285 miles.

2.15 PEUGEOT GORDON STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £45,000 added 3YO 1m 4f — BBC1

RATINGS
1 1I03 CASINO CAPTIVE (USA) (20) (D) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 10 .. J Reid 5 101
2 3-1I11 CLAPHAM COMMON (23) (Angla Bloodstock) L Cumani 8 10 .... Pat Eddery 1 104
3 16 DARK SHELL (24) (Lord Weinstock) Sir M Stoute 8 10 ......W R Swinburn 4 101
4 2511 HITMAN (20) (The Paper Boys) H Cecil 8 10 ...... K Fallon 6 101
5 13 NEDAWI (24) (CD) (BF) (Godolphin) Saeed bin Suroor 8 10 ......L Dettori 2 107
6 31-611 RABAH (24) (C) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 8 10 ...... R Hills 3 113
- 6 declared -

BETTING: 6-4 Hitman, 11-4 Rabah, 4-1 Nedawi, 6-1 Casino Captive, 6-1 Clapham Common, 16-1 Dark Shell
1997: Stowaway 8 10 K Darley 10-3 jt fav (S bin Suroor) drawn (5) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE

Casino Captive: Won a maiden at Chester and 1m4f novice stakes at Chepstow, both in May. Towards rear in King Edward VII at Royal Ascot but ran much better when 2½ lengths third (giving 4lb) to Hitman in a £19000 handicap at Newmarket
Clapham Common: Notched up hat-trick in 2-runner race at Newbury and two listed events in Italy, all at 1m2f, latest by 3½ lengths from Carry The Flag. Not sure to stay
Dark Shell: Very promising debut to win 1m2f maiden at Sandown. 7-1 only sixth of 8 to Rabah in 1m4f listed race at Haydock, beaten 5¼ lengths, but should do better
Hitman: Upped from 1m to 1m2f and improved for it, when winning £19000 handicap at Newmarket (firm) last time in really good style. Uncertain stayer, though was an intended runner (and a morning withdrawal) in a 1m4f handicap at Royal Ascot
Nedawi: Has excellent 1m4f pedigree. Won maiden here in impressive style before third of 8 (favourite, beaten about 1½ lengths) to Rabah at Haydock. On his way up
Rabah: Won listed race here in May from Mutamam and another at Haydock (1m4f, good to firm) by length from Courteous. Likely front-runner and should figure again

VERDICT: RABAH has solid claims in a tricky race although, on the face of it, he has slightly less scope for improvement than several of his rivals. The pedigrees of Hitman and Clapham Common, however, do not shout stamina. The twice-raced Nedawi should prove a big threat but is clearly held by Rabah on the form they showed over this trip at Haydock.

2.45 GROSVENOR CASINOS CUP (HANDICAP) (B) £55,000 1m 6f Penalty Value £35,500 — BBC1

1 13-223 STREET GENERAL (17) (BF) (L Gaucci) H Cecil 4 10 0 ...... K Fallon 6 101
2 0-0601 PERFECT PARADIGM (24) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4 9 13 ..L Dettori 11 V 99
3 131341 TOUGH LEADER (16) (G G Grayson) B Hanbury 4 9 7 ...... J Fortune 13 104
4 41-010 HENRY ISLAND (41) (CD) (H H Morriss) G Wragg 5 9 3 ...... M Hills 15 104
5 331141 TARXIEN (32) (CD) (Ginge Racing Partnership) K Burke 4 9 3 ... N Callan (7) 8 99
6 10-002 MOTET (38) (A E Oppenheimer) G Wragg 4 9 2 ...... Paul Eddery 5 109
7 1-4013 FANTAIL (24) (Pamela, Lady Nelson of Stafford) M Tompkins 4 9 1 ...... T Quinn 4 105
8 0234/P DATO STAR (83) (K Ricy, M Guthrie & J Donald) J M Jefferson 7 9 1 ... R Hughes 2 103
9 2-510 STAR CRYSTAL (41) (D) (M Poland) H Cecil J 8 7 ...... W Ryan 12 94
10 150 SEIGNORIAL (USA) (24) (J D Gunther) P Chapple-Hyam 3 5 6 ... R Havlin (3) 10 107
11 213-50 RENZO (24) (D) (K J Buchanan) Mrs A Perrett 5 8 5 ...... A Clark 14 114
12 01235- WILD RITA (J173) (Perspicacious Punters) W Muir 6 8 5 ...... Dane O'Neill 1 103
13 -33363 FAHS (USA) (20) (City Industrial Supplies) G Lewis 6 8 5 ...... Pat Eddery 7 114
14 32-182 TOUGH ACT (13) (C) (Mrs R Doel) Mrs A Perrett 4 8 3 ...... D Harrison 3 114
15 0-3603 MR BROWNING (14) (C) (M O'Shea) Miss G Kelleway 7 7 10 .. A McCarthy (3) 8 B 88
- 15 declared -

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Mr Browning 6st 9lb
BETTING: 11-2 Fantail, 6-1 Perfect Paradigm, Street General, Tough Leader, 13-2 Tarxien, 11-1 Fahs, Henry Island, Tough Act, 12-1 Star Crystal, 14-1 Motet, 16-1 others
1997: Media Star 4 8 7 O Peslier 4-1 jt fav (J Gosden) drawn (1) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE

Street General: Stablemate Benatom beaten in this last year after win at York. Street General third in the corresponding York race this year and faces stern task under 10st
Perfect Paradigm: Has run in the French Derby and John Porter. Looked smart in a handicap (Old Newton Cup at Haydock) last time with the visor on and seems to be over his breathing problems
Tough Leader: Consistent fast-ground handicapper and beat Blueprint with today's partner Jimmy Fortune at York (1m 4f) last time. Sure to go well over this longer trip
Henry Island: Won over course and distance (beat subsequent winner Mawared) two outings ago. Only 2lb higher today but stable has gone an age since last win
Tarxien: Keeps improving and latest success (runner-up won at Sandown afterwards) gained over course and distance under today's useful apprentice
Motet: Improved last season when tackled longer trips than this. Outclassed by Top Cees last time and, along with stablemate Henry Island, may struggle with the yard out of form
Fantail: May find this ground too lively and stepped up in distance after the latest third to Perfect Paradigm at Haydock, for which he gets a 5lb pull for over four lengths
Dato Star: Wants mud and a trip so hard to fancy on such a sharp course
Star Crystal: Made running in Queen's Vase before she dropped right back. A dual winner from a good family and a likely type at the weights taking on older rivals
Seignorial: Has been pitted in two hot races since the debut win from Brimming at Beverley (testing ground). Something to prove in his first handicap
Renzo: A suspect character in a finish and not sighted in the race 12 months ago. Has shown nothing on two starts this season
Wild Rita: First run of season, though has twice won when fresh. In a stronger race compared to win from Rex Mundi at Leicester a year ago
Fahs: Dual winner for Reg Akehurst last season and tried over a longer trip which could suit judged on Newmarket third to Travelmate. Pat Eddery an interesting booking
Tough Act: Has been soft in a finish, though has won over hurdles and on the course last month under a quiet ride. Has a chance on the latest second to Gold Mist at Sandown
Mr Browning: Has been contesting softish races of late and held by Tarxien on Newbury running in May

VERDICT: There is every chance of a follow up win by Perfect Paradigm after the Old Newton Cup victory and the stable won this race last year with a four-year-old. But the younger filly STAR CRYSTAL gets plenty of weight and is preferred to stablemate Street General. Star Crystal looks the ideal type for the race, and the each-way choice is Fahs, who wants this trip and with Pat Eddery booked.

3.20 KING GEORGE GROSVENOR CASINOS STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £47,500 5f Penalty Value £28,100 — BBC1

1 310-05 CARMINE LAKE (19) (CD) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 4 9 7 ...... J Reid 2 126
2 5-0300 AVERTI (19) (CD) (D J Deer) W Muir 7 9 5 ...... J Weaver 7 116
3 3-8105 MIDNIGHT ESCAPE (24) (D) (Mervyn Ayers) C Wall 5 8 5 ...... S Sanders 6 118
4 205-23 ALMATY (57) (CD) (BF) (Mrs H Levy) W Muir 5 9 0 ......W R Swinburn 12 127
5 340022 BISHOPS COURT (17) (D BF) (D Brotherton) Mrs J Ramsden 4 9 0 ...... J Fortune 11 116
6 322-40 CATHEDRAL (15) (D) (Kennet Valley T'breds) B Meehan 4 9 0 ...... T Quinn 18 118
7 -50403 DASHING BLUE (17) (D) (Mrs D Allen) I Balding 5 9 0 ...... K Darley 8 115
8 -36302 EASYCALL (4) (C) (D) (BF) (Easycall Pcho) B Meehan 4 8 0 ... Pat Eddery 13 V 117
9 -02450 MY BEST VALENTINE (15) (D) (The Valentines) V Soane 5 8 0 .... R Cochrane 1 121
10 -16800 RAMBLING BEAR (10) (CD) (M Hill/H Crekko) M Blanshard 5 8 0 ...M Roberts 10 115
11 -41300 TADEO (24) (D) (BF) (J R Good) M Johnston 5 9 0 ...... Dean McKeown 9 114
12 315001 TEDBURROW (17) (D) (P Danaa) E Alston 8 9 0 ...... K Fallon 8 119
13 0-2122 LOCHANGEL (38) (J C Smith) I Balding 4 8 11 ...... L Dettori 14 123
14 106-26 LADY ALEXANDER (57) (CD BF) (N O'Callaghan) C Collins (Ir) 3 8 7 ... P Shanahan 3 119
15 214-40 LAND OF DREAMS (38)(D) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Johnston 3 8 7. D Holland 4 122
- 15 declared -

BETTING: 7-2 Lochangel, 6-1 Land Of Dreams, 6-1 Bishops Court, 9-1 Carmine Lake, Tedburrow, 10-1 Cathedral, 12-1 Lady Alexander, My Best Valentine, 14-1 Dashing Blue, 16-1 others
1997: Averti 6 8 0 K Fallon 11-1 (W Muir) drawn (3) 15 ran

FORM GUIDE

Carmine Lake: Won 1997 Abbaye at Longchamp (and carries Group 1 penalty for it) over 5f on firm. Looked as good as ever when sixth in the July Cup at Newmarket
Averti: One of several excellent efforts in 1997 when getting up close home in this race. Not back to that form yet, but shaped well second start. 13th in the July Cup
Midnight Escape: Won Group 3 at Leopardstown last August and listed race (Averti and Bishops Court not far behind) at Kempton this May. Has to improve again
Almaty: Second favourite and favourite for this event in 1996 and 1997, finishing however 11th then last of 15. Two much better efforts this term, but may not be good enough
Bishops Court: Progressing well, winning rated stakes at Epsom and runner-up last two starts. Has very high cruising speed, needs a lead, and this may be ideal
Cathedral: Touched off by Averti 12 months ago. Back with career-best fourth of 19 (1¼ lengths behind runner-up Lochangel) at Royal Ascot, before disappointing in France
Dashing Blue: Third in 6f Stewards' Cup here last term and ran very well most starts after. Below form this year, but didn't do too badly when fourth in a Group 3 at York
Easycall: Has not won since 1996. Good efforts in group races on three of five starts in 1998 but disappointed with much easier tasks in the other two, at 6-13 on Friday
My Best Valentine: Come-from-behind sprinter, runner-up in the Stewards' Cup 12 months ago. Has run very well most starts since, but this fast 5f is a new test for him
Rambling Bear: Won this two years ago, but 6f conditions stakes here in May was his first win since. Below form in listed races last two starts
Tadeo: Speedy front-runner, very close behind Bishops Court over 5f at Epsom in June. Can normally be relied upon, but didn't last long up front on latest start
Tedburrow: Has won two listed races this season, over 6f at Newmarket in April and over 5f at Chester (by a head from Bishops Court on today's terms) in July
Lochangel: Won Bath listed race in May. Impressive front-running performances in defeat since behind Bolshoi in group races at Sandown and Ascot. Leading contender
Lady Alexander: Won the Molecomb over 5f here last season. Chances on reappearance short-head second in a 6f Group 3 at the Curragh, but below form latest
Land Of Dreams: Very stylish in the Flying Childers at Doncaster (5f, good to firm) last September. On a soft surface all starts since, showing plenty of promise this year

VERDICT: This should be a spectacular dash on this very fast track, a cutthroat pace apparently guaranteed with the likes of Cathedral, Tadeo and Lochangel in the field. Lochangel has obvious prospects after her fine attempts to make all on much stiffer tracks on her last two starts. Likely to arrive much later on the scene, but equally interesting, are Land Of Dreams and BISHOPS COURT. Bishops Court just gets the vote on the grounds that his well-being is proven and that if ever a group race is going to be set up for him and his last-gasp challenge, this is it.

3.50 CHESTERFIELD CUP (HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £56,000 added 1m 2f — BBC1

1 11-100 DANISH RHAPSODY (27) (CD) (G Hardy) Lady Herries 5 10 0 ... Paul Eddery 13 109
2 /114-3 BADLESMERE (30) (Exors of Lord Sondes) P Cole 4 8 12 ...... T Quinn 1 110
3 46-130 MANDILAK (USA) (27) (D) (BF) (H H Aga Khan) L Cumani 4 8 11 ... L Dettori 9 108
4 3310- BASMAN (262) (D) (Nelson, Edmondson & Partners) B Smart 4 9 6 ... J Stack 12 109
5 204062 PUNISHMENT (25) (D) (A J Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 7 8 2 ... W Ryan 15 111
6 350421 ALMOND ROCK (16) (D) (C I T Racing) J Fanshawe 6 8 1 ...... W R Swinburn 2 108
7 020-03 SUPPLY AND DEMAND (15) (Acton) G L Moore 4 8 0 ...... K Fallon 8 B 112
8 -31142 YAVANA'S PACE (3) (D) (Mrs J Kearney) M Johnston 6 8 12 ...... D Holland 3 106
9 0-1032 KEWARRA (15) (D) (G Palmer) B R Millman 4 8 10 ...... T Sprake 16 108
10 4-4036 ANOTHER TIME (3) (D) (D Sullivan) S Woods 8 8 10 ...... Pat Eddery 8 109
11 06-050 PRINCE BABAR (19) (Giles Pritchard-Gordon) J Banks 7 8 10 .. G Faulkner (5) 11 110
12 -63251 SECRET SPRING (FR) (20) (D) (M K George) P Hedger 6 8 6 ...... J Reid 10 108
13 120-16 ANAK-KU (17) (D) (Sultan Ahmad Shah) Miss G Kelleway 5 8 7 ... S Sanders 17 111
14 -52684 CONSPICUOUS (11) (C) (D) (Mrs J Hopkins) L G Cottrell 8 8 7 ... A Daly (3) 5 106
15 25-060 TARSKI (16) (E Gadsden/Mrs M Fairburn) L G Cottrell 4 8 0 ... N Pollard (5) 14 117
16 200401 ABAJANY (7) (D) (J White & Partners) M Channon 4 8 0 (4ex) ... A Mackay 4 108
17 20105P PHILISTAR (17) (D) (H Sheiks) K Burke 5 7 12 ...... A McCarthy (3) 7 106
- 17 declared -

BETTING: 9-1 Supply And Demand, 7-1 Yavana's Pace, 8-1 Secret Spring, 6-1 Almond Rock, 10-1 Kewarra, Mandilak, 11-1 Another Time, Conspicuous, Punishment, 12-1 others
1997: Danish Rhapsody 4 8 8 J Reid 14-1 (Lady Herries) drawn (11) 16 ran

FORM GUIDE

Danish Rhapsody: The 1997 winner. 16lb higher after three more wins, two at this track and two in listed races. Below form recently, but can seldom be ruled out here
Badlesmere: Unraced in 1997 after fourth in the Derby Italiano. Made promising return when third of 10 to Soviet Bureau in conditions stakes here over inadequate 1m
Mandilak: In good form in Italian listed race (1m2f) and Group 2 (1m4f) first two starts this season. Disappointing however in a Kempton listed race on latest
Basman: Highly regarded by his trainer, tried in two group races last term before winning a 1m2f maiden. Type to do better this year, and will have to off this mark
Punishment: Still trained by John Hammond when strong-finishing neck second of 20 to Yavana's Pace in £52000 handicap at Sandown latest start
Almond Rock: In good form most of this year, justifying favouritism at Windsor (1m2f good) last time
Supply And Demand: Second in another 1m2f handicap at this meeting last year off 3lb higher mark. Easily most encouraging run since (including over hurdles) when beaten about a length behind Almond Rock at Windsor earlier this month
Yavana's Pace: Just held on from Punishment in £52000 event at Sandown (1m2f, good to soft). Can go close off this 4lb higher mark, as shown by her second (finishing well, having had to be switched) to Song Of Freedom at Ascot on Saturday
Kewarra: 1lb better off for the neck he was beaten by Almond Rock at Windsor. Earlier won in good style at Epsom on soft, but was below form there on good to firm
Another Time: 1m2f specialist, second in this 12 months ago off the same mark. Below best since winning £2200 contest at Ascot in June, sixth at Ascot on Saturday
Prince Babar: Unproven over this trip, fifth of 6 on good to soft at Sandown in June. Showed something like his old ability when seventh in the Bunbury Cup next time
Secret Spring: In fine form from 1m to 1m2f this term, justifying favouritism at Kempton in July by ½ length from Mutadarra. Up 7lb for that success
Anak-Ku: Front-runner, successful in a classified stakes at Salisbury in June and confronted by stiff task from wide draw in the John Smiths Cup at York next time
Conspicuous: Twice a winner here. Ran another good race on the track when second in May and now dropped 3lb. Comes late and appreciates a sound pace
Tarski: Lightly-raced gelding, trained previous two seasons by Henry Cecil. Untried beyond 9f (below form on soft) but has been dropped 10lb since first run this term
Abajany: Below form on fast ground this season but has mostly run with credit otherwise, winning 1m2f classified stakes at Bath last time by ½ length from Muhtafel
Philistar: Won £18000 handicap at Epsom (8½f, good) in June. Best form over shorter trips than 1m2f, but is likely to settle in this race. Saddle slipped latest start

VERDICT: There should be a good pace here, which should suit the sizeable group of interesting horses who are ridden with waiting tactics. Chief among these are Another Time, Conspicuous, Philistar and YAVANA'S PACE. There is always the chance of trouble in running, as Yavana's Pace showed clearly enough at Ascot on Saturday, but the promise of that strong-finishing second is hard to overlook.

4.25 EVENING STANDARD NURSERY (HANDICAP) (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £7,546

1 205 MORNING MUSIC (19) (Mohamed Suhail) R Hannon 8 7 ...... R Hughes 7
2 51450 DAME JUDE (17) (Stableside Partnership) W Muir 8 6 ...... J Reid 3
3 201131 SWEET AS A NUT (12) (Wessex House Racing) G Dwyer 9 5 ...... G Faulkner (5) 8
4 21 MY PETAL (11) (Mrs P & Mr P Jubert) R Hannon 9 4 ...... Dane O'Neill 10
5 614 ARABIAN DESERT (10) (BF) (Zaid A Galadari) M Johnston 9 4 ...... D Holland 14 B
6 515043 IVORY'S PROMISE (8) (D Ivory) K Ivory 9 4 ...... N Pollard (5) 12
7 5143 BY THE GLASS (17) (C F Colquhoun) P Walwyn 9 2 ...... T Quinn 4
8 651 ASLEY (14) (D) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) M Tregoning 8 2 ...... T Sprake 11 B
9 0300 VINTAGE PRIDE (10) (P Adams, M Grant & W Hawkings) R Hannon 8 1 .. Pat Eddery 6
10 040 ANY MOORE (10) (J S Moore) J S Moore 8 11 ...... P P Murphy (3) 13
11 030 AUTOCRAT (10) (Kingsdown Racing) M Channon 8 12 ...... A Mackay 1
12 22165 MIDNIGHT ORCHID (4) (D) (T Herbert-Jackson) J Berry 8 9 ...... P Fessey 9
13 330 KINGFISHERS BONNET (13) (P J Wightman) S Knight 8 6 ...... A Nicholls (7) 5
14 4001 SHABAASH (20) (B S Chatwal & Partners) G Lewis 8 2 ...... A McCarthy (3) 2
- 14 declared -

BETTING: 9-2 Asley, 7-1 My Petal, Shabaash, 6-1 Sweet As A Nut, Ivory's Promise, Midnight Orchid, 16-1 Arabian Desert, 12-1 others
1997: Halmahera 9 7 Pat Eddery 11-4 fav (I Balding) drawn (2) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE

Morning Music: Led for 4f at Newmarket last time in the hot maiden won by Mythical Girl (Ascot winner on Saturday). Still appears harshly treated for a maiden
Dame Jude: Nicely drawn but a disappointing filly at Salisbury last time. Won only a small race at Brighton and could struggle today
Sweet As A Nut: Has improved since winning claimers, but this is a stiffer task after the latest short-head nursery win from Northern Svengali at Doncaster (5f)
My Petal: One of three Richard Hannon runners. Has done nothing wrong and won at Newbury (the third has scored since) after the debut second at Bath
Arabian Desert: Flopped in a nursery at Ayr after the last-gasp win at Nottingham. Now tried in blinkers and beatable from the outside draw
Ivory's Promise: Still green when a winner at Bath on second start. Outclassed on next two starts and again at Windsor last week. Has a squeak with a good boy up
By The Glass: Won at Leicester on his second start but exposed in this class after being left behind by Sealand Rock at Lingfield on similar ground to this
Asley: From the stable that had a juvenile winner at Ascot on Saturday. Pinged but for an all-the-way win at Brighton so should handle the downhill run
Vintage Pride: Took on winners on her debut and back with Pat Eddery for the first time since. Next time at Sandown held by two fillies that have been in top-class races since
Any Moore: Best showing was a fourth of 25 to Lady Angharad at Salisbury (7f). Outclassed next time and draw (13 of 14) may count against her
Autocrat: Has the best draw but likely to be outpaced on this fast track. Tried over 7f after staying on from the back when third to Grey Princess at Salisbury (6f
Midnight Orchid: Only fifth in an AW nursery on Saturday and her win at Hamilton was on ground much softer than this
Kingfishers Bonnet: Has shown only modest ability and likely to find the pace too hot being from a family that that did better over longer trips
Shabaash: Handily placed in stall two and a three-length Folkestone nursery winner with today's apprentice. In good heart and suited by this extra furlong

VERDICT: A nursery that is up for grabs and Newbury winner MY PETAL could prove the pick of Richard Hannon's trio, though the stable's Vintage Pride is in with a shout on her Sandown run against Gipsy Rose Lee. Asley can be expected to go well on this sharp course and Folkestone winner Shabaash gets weight from them all and goes on the short-list from a favourable draw.

5.00 GROSVENOR CASINO HOVE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £10,000 added 2YO fillies 6f Penalty Value £6,938

1 60 AUBRIETA (USA) (41) (Ali Saeed) C Brittain 8 11 ...... L Dettori 5
2 04 COMPTON AMBER (24) (E Penser) G A Butler 8 11 ...... W Ryan 4
3 2 ELHIDA (19) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) M Tregoning 8 11 ...... R Hills 1
4 26 KALIDASA (USA) (21) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 11 ...... J Reid 3
5 61D OPTIONAL (38) (BF) (Wyck Hall Stud) B Meehan 8 11 ...... Pat Eddery 8
6 42 PENNY MOOR (55) (Greenland Park Ltd) M Johnston 8 11 ...... D Holland 2
- 6 declared -

BETTING: 5-4 Elhida, 2-1 Kalidasa, 7-1 Optional, Penny Moor, 10-1 Compton Amber, 33-1 Aubrieta
1997: Expect To Shine 8 11 M Hills 6-4 fav (B Hills) drawn (1) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

Aubrieta: Daylur filly. Given stiff-looking tasks so far, green sixth of 7 in conditions stakes at Newbury and 14th of 17 in the Queen Mary at Royal Ascot, both over 5f
Compton Amber: 25,000-guinea daughter of Pussance. Beaten about 4 lengths when fourth of 8 to Rusk in novice race at Haydock (6f, good to firm), shaping with promise
Elhida: Mujtahid filly. Beaten 1¼ lengths by Saturday's Group 3 winner Mythical Girl on both fillies' debut at Newmarket (6f, firm). Any improvement must see her go close
Kalidasa: By Nureyev. Beaten neck in a 5f Chester maiden and never-dangerous sixth of 10, beaten 4 lengths, to Wannabe Grand in the 6f Cherry Hinton at Newmarket
Optional: Prince Sabo filly. Favourite, beat Grey Princess ½ length in a 24-runner maiden at Windsor (6f, good to firm) but was demoted for interference after hanging left
Penny Moor: Polish Precedent filly. Has had two races over 6f on soft ground at Newcastle, on latest start showing good pace but caught final 1f by Saphira. Interesting

VERDICT: There is no denying that Elhida shaped with more than enough promise on her debut and that Kalidasa has the form to win most races such as this after her sixth in a Group 2 last time, but PENNY MOOR looks an attractive alternative. This filly has a decent pedigree, showed plenty of ability on testing ground on her second start and should start at much longer odds.

5.35 LORD GEORGE BENTINCK HANDICAP (CLASS D) £12,000 added 1m Penalty Value £9,524

1 0-5120 CHINA RED (USA) (13) (CD) (N N Browne & Partners) J Hills 4 10 0 ...... M Hills 17
2 1000-1 PRESENT GENERATION (14) (D) (S Lury) R Guest 5 10 0 ...... S Sanders 15
3 02402 HUGWITY (8) (CD) (M G Whaley) G Bravery 8 9 12 ...... N Day 4
4 -10133 ASSET MANAGER (10) (D) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Johnston 3 9 3 ... D Holland 18
5 003040 STAR TALENT (21) (C) (D) (BF) (R Michaelson) I Balding 7 9 6 ...... R Cochrane 20
6 1321-4 DEKI (USA) (98) (Hadi Al-Tajir) E Dunlop 3 8 8 ...... R Hills 10
7 -26000 SKY DOME (17) (CD) (Miss D J Merson) M Tompkins 5 8 7 ...... Pat Eddery 16
8 0-0010 SHEER FACE (32) (CD) (BF) (A J de V Patrick) W Muir 4 9 8 ...... J Reid 3
9 281563 TOPTON (16) (Lam Sheridan) P Howling 4 8 5 ...... Paul Eddery 14 B
10 43166 TEQUILA (19) (CD) (P G S Silver) L Cumani 5 9 5 ...... L Dettori 11
11 56053 STOPPES BROW (11) (CD) (C J Fenwick) G L Moore 6 9 4 ...... W R Swinburn 2 B
12 401-45 BABA AU RHUM (29) (D) (Mr & Mrs J Poynton) I Williams 8 8 2 ...... K Fallon 15
13 000200 SUPER MONARCH (13) (Chelgate PR) K Burke 4 8 2 ...... N Callan (7) 16
14 430005 KNOBBLEENEEZE (11) (C) (D) (A Andrews) M Channon 8 8 12 ...... T Quinn 8 V
15 0-0000 RON'S PET (20) (G E K Teo) R Hannon J 8 10 ...... Dane O'Neill 1
16 -00000 HAKEEM (25) (Ahmed Al Shafar) R Armstrong 3 8 9 ...... R Price 12
17 205042 SWIFT (7) (D) (General Sir Geoffrey Howlett) M Polglase 4 6 6 ...... D Harrison 7
18 22-605 SILVERSMITH (FR) (10) (D G Churston) S Dow 3 6 6 ...... M Roberts 9
19 04433 NAVIASKY (12) (D) (N Munton) Mrs J Ramsden 5 8 5 ...... J Fortune 8
20 233660 SARA MOON CLASSIC (46) (Highgrove) K McAuliffe 3 8 1 ...... A McCarthy (3) 9 V
- 20 declared -

BETTING: 6-1 Asset Manager, 8-1 Naviasky, 10-1 Star Talent, Tequila, 11-1 Baba Au Rhum, 12-1 China Red, Hakeem, 14-1 Present Generation, Sky Dome, Stoppes Brow, Swift, 16-1 others
1997: No Extras 7 9 5 J Quinn 15-2 (G L Moore) drawn (17) 19 ran

FORM GUIDE

China Red: Favourably drawn in this big field and awarded race (Volley disq.) here in May. Headed by Sheer Face here next time and up against it with the big weight
Present Generation: Popped up at 25-1 at Brighton on reappearance and well enough drawn today. He may try and make all again but this is a hotter race
Hugwity: Defied a big weight in a weakish race at Yarmouth three outings ago. Beaten in a claimer at Sandown last time and handicapped by a low draw today
Asset Manager: Has strong claims on recent form and well drawn in stall 18. Stayed on up the hill when third to Horazi at Newmarket and beat older horses at Newcastle last month, though fast ground doesn't look ideal for him
Star Talent: Well handicapped though often finds trouble in running. Has the best draw and 5lb better with China Red for an unlucky run here in May
Deki: Won handicap at Beverley last August and with a stiff task against the older horses after just one run this season
Sky Dome: Has lost plenty of his old ability and the 5lb pull for the four-length beating by Asset Manager at Newcastle may not be enough for a form reversal
Sheer Face: Last three runs have been on the course, the ninth furlong proving too far last time. Still well handicapped after win from China Red but has low draw to overcome
Topton: Beat a big field at Doncaster (7f) last month but not the easiest horse to catch right and no certainty to stay the mile
Tequila: One of the stable's lesser lights, but he won his maiden over the course and distance and better is possible with Frankie Dettori riding him for the first time
Stoppes Brow: From last year's winning stable but has been unlucky with a low draw. Gained a course win with Walter Swinburn in May and could still figure
Baba Au Rhum: Short of room when unplaced in this last year and won at Haydock next time. Showed promise this year and sure to figure with Kieren Fallon booked
Super Monarch: Won a maiden on the AW in February and second to Dandy Regent at Brighton (7f) in April. Short of room when unplaced at Sandown last time and a live outsider with a good apprentice taking over
Knobbleeneeze: Slipping down the weights again but this oldstager would prefer some dig in the ground
Ron's Pet: Second in nursery on this card last year has the worst of the draw today
Hakeem: Hasn't done much since gaining a maiden win at Folkestone last September. Likely to find things happening too quickly in this big field
Swift: Second to the back-to-form Rebel County at Bath last time and on a long-losing sequence
Silversmith: A maiden trying a mile for the first time. Staying on in fifth to Huntswood at Newmarket last time and could figure in the hands at the in-form Michael Roberts
Naviasky: Should get his desired strongly-run race and interesting now that he tackles older horses. Over a longer trip last time and back with Jimmy Fortune after Carlisle win
Sara Moon Classic: Maiden after 12 starts and seemingly with little hope today

VERDICT: The draw is important with the outside (low) not the place to be, which is unfortunate for Sheer Face and Stoppes Brow. Those better positioned are STAR TALENT, who hopefully will get a smooth run this time from the draw right next to the inside rail, Super Monarch, Asset Manager and China Red. Baba Au Rhum was a shade unlucky in this last year and has claims with Kieren Fallon booked.

GALWAY

6.50 MCDONOGH EBF HANDICAP £50,000 added 1m 100yds Penalty Value £30,500

1 1-6230 FREE TO SPEAK (10) (CD) (Moyglare Stud) D Weld 8 8 10 ...... M J Kinane 6 B
2 41-042 THATS LOGIC (73) (D) (D M Murphy) D Hassett 4 8 5 ...... J P Spencer (5) 7
3 21564 PLAYACTING (USA) (10) (D) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Oxx 3 9 4 ...... J P Murtagh 3
4 40-01 JIMMY THE GREEK (30) (Ms M Horan) P Prendergast 3 6 3 ...... S W Kelly (5) 16
5 11210 RIGHT JOB (30) (D) (P McGinn) P Flynn 3 9 3 ...... D M Grant (7) 2
6 2-4211 FORGET ABOUT IT (31) (D) (J R Perotta) C Collins 3 6 2 ...... N G McCullagh 13
7 -01231 HASANAT (10) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) K Prendergast 3 9 2 (5ex) ...... S Craine 17
8 3-2611 GOLDEN FACT (6) (D) (Golden Sands Synd.) M McElhone 4 8 1 (5ex) .. S A Curtis (7) 6
9 11-420 BALLA SOLA (14) (C) (Top Cat Synd.) W P Mullins 3 6 0 ...... P J Smullen 15
10 01-300 AMRAVATI (16) (D H W Dobson) J Bolger 3 8 12 ...... K J Manning 11
11 -20212 SWEET WILHELMINA (30) (D) (C van Hoorn) Ld Huntingdon (GB) 5 8 12 W J O'Connor 1
12 43313 FAIRY RIDGE (10) (J P McManus) A P O'Brien 3 6 11 ...... C Roche 18 B
13 21-435 WELSH LION (73) (Miss P F O'Kelly) M Grassick 4 8 10 ...... E Ahern (3) 14
14 01010 MASTER COOPER (14) (D S Dunne) D Hanley 4 8 8 ...... J J Behan 5
15 0-0420 MAYTPLEASETHECOURT (10) (D) (J Mulhern) J Mulhern 5 8 7 ...... G D Power (7) 9
16 0-0068 ZANKLE (USA) (30) (CD) (Dr M W Smurfit) D Weld 5 8 7 ...... D P McDonogh (5) 12 B
17 310-11 DEILGINIS (57) (D) (F G Kenny) N Meade 3 6 5 ...... D R McCabe 4 B
18 /01263 SEA FISHER (33) (D) (J P McManus) A Leahy 7 7 10 ...... S J Crawford (7) 10
- 18 declared -

BETTING: 13-2 Hasanat, 7-1 Sweet Wilhelmina, Fairy Ridge, 8-1 Playacting, Jimmy The Greek, 10-1 Forget About It, Golden Fact, Maytpleasethecourt, Zankle, 12-1 others
1997: Wray 5 8 3 S Craine (6) 6-1 (L Browne) drawn (7) 17 ran

FIRST SHOW

Goodwood 2.15

Horse	C	H	L	S	T
Hitman	6-4	6-4	7-4	7-4	11-8
Rabah	11-4	11-4	5-2	5-2	11-4
Nedawi	9-2	4-1	4-1	7-2	4-1
Casino Captive	5-1	7-1	6-1	13-2	7-1
Clapham Com.	6-1	8-1	6-1	8-1	9-1
Dark Shell	16-1	14-1	14-1	16-1	16-1

Each-way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2
C Coral H Wm Hill L Ladbrokes S Stanley T Tote

Goodwood 2.45

Horse	C	H	L	S	T
Fantail	11-2	11-2	11-2	11-2	11-2
Street General	6-1	6-1	7-1	11-2	11-2
Tough Leader	6-1	6-1	11-2	7-1	6-1
Perf. Paradigm	15-2	7-1	6-1	7-1	11-2
Tarxien	6-1	13-2	6-1	6-1	15-2
Fahs	11-1	12-1	11-1	10-1	12-1
Henry Island	10-1	11-1	11-1	10-1	12-1
Tough Act	11-1	10-1	12-1	10-1	10-1
Star Crystal	14-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Motet	14-1	12-1	14-1	14-1	16-1
Dato Star	14-1	16-1	20-1	14-1	16-1
Renzo	20-1	25-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Seignorial	25-1	20-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Wild Rita	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Mr Browning	66-1	66-1	66-1	50-1	66-1

Each-way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3

Goodwood 3.20

Horse	C	H	L	S	T
Lochangel	7-2	7-2	7-2	7-2	7-2
Land Of Dreams	13-2	5-1	6-1	13-2	9-2
Bishops Court	6-1	8-1	8-1	6-1	6-1
Carmine Lake	9-1	16-1	10-1	8-1	10-1
Tedburrow	10-1	8-1	8-1	9-1	9-1
Cathedral	10-1	11-1	8-1	10-1	10-1
Lady Alexander	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
My Best Valen.	10-1	11-1	12-1	12-1	14-1
Almaty	16-1	16-1	16-1	14-1	16-1
Dashing Blue	14-1	14-1	16-1	14-1	16-1
Easycall	14-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Averti	16-1	20-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Midnight Escape	25-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Rambling Bear	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1	25-1
Tadeo	20-1	25-1	25-1	20-1	25-1

Each way, a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3

Goodwood 3.50

Horse	C	H	L	S	T
Supply & Dem.	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
Yavana's Pace	15-2	7-1	6-1	7-1	7-1
Secret Spring	9-1	7-1	6-1	6-1	9-1
Almond Rock	8-1	10-1	11-1	10-1	10-1
Kewarra	10-1	10-1	10-1	11-1	9-1
Mandilak	10-1	11-1	9-1	10-1	10-1
Another Time	11-1	9-1	12-1	11-1	11-1
Conspicuous	11-1	10-1	10-1	12-1	11-1
Punishment	12-1	10-1	10-1	9-1	10-1
Badlesmere	12-1	14-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Danish Rhap.	16-1	16-1	16-1	14-1	16-1
Prince Babar	12-1	16-1	12-1	12-1	14-1
Anak-Ku	16-1	20-1	14-1	16-1	16-1
Philistar	16-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Abajany	20-1	20-1	20-1	16-1	25-1
Tarski	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Basman	40-1	40-1	33-1	33-1	33-1

Each-way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4

Goodwood 5.35

Horse	H	T
Asset Manager	6-1	11-2
Naviasky	6-1	8-1
Star Talent	10-1	8-1
Tequila	10-1	9-1
Baba Au Rhum	10-1	11-1
China Red	12-1	12-1
Hakeem	14-1	12-1
Present Generation	12-1	14-1
Sky Dome	14-1	14-1
Stoppes Brow	12-1	14-1
Swift	12-1	14-1
Sheer Face	16-1	16-1
Deki	16-1	20-1
Knobbleeneeze	20-1	20-1
Topton	20-1	16-1
Hugwity	25-1	25-1
Silversmith	25-1	25-1
Ron's Pet	28-1	33-1
Super Monarch	33-1	25-1
Sara Moon Classic	40-1	40-1

Each way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4

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هكذا من الاصل

The road to expansion lies ahead

Dave Hadfield considers the success of 'Super League On The Road' and concludes it still has some way to go

A MODEST success that can be built on – that should be the verdict on rugby league's rambles over the last three weeks. The biggest crowd of the venture at Swansea on Sunday night brought down the curtain on what was billed as "Super League On The Road".

On the road to where, that's the question. The cautious answer must be that it is a little closer than it was to finding the wider audience on which its future prosperity depends.

The attendances – even at Swansea – were not spectacular. But, after a disappointing first night at Gateshead, the project developed a momentum of its own, with the enthusiasm for what was essentially an alien game growing steadily in the other far-flung venues.

Over 30,000 people watched the six matches – around two-thirds of the numbers that might have been expected if they had all been played as part of a conventional weekend's fixtures.

At a rough guess, maybe half of those were supporters travelling to support their club, with Bradford's representation at Edinburgh predictably leading the way. That means that the other 15,000 were people who would not otherwise have seen a live Super League match.

"Anyone who increases their business by a third, which is what we did, would be delighted," said Super League's managing director, Maurice Lindsay, as he shuffled the figures.

Attracting new punters and showing them what the game is about was a worthwhile achievement, even if few of them are yet in a position to become regular supporters. The awareness has been planted in new minds – many of them very young minds – and that has to be progress.

It was expecting too much that all the games would be of a soaringly high standard: some clubs reacted far better than others to the disruption in the usual schedule. But the country saw a fair cross-section of the good, the bad and the indifferent and seemed to enjoy it.

It was a shame that St Helens could not compete effectively with Wigan in the final game in Swansea, but at least the biggest audience of the enterprise saw the game played as it should be by one side.

It was fitting that Wigan should also be the most positive influence off the field, calling in at their twin club in Cheltenham en route and generally treating the whole experience as something they wanted to do rather than something they had to do.

"I thought it [the match in Swansea] was very successful," said their coach, John Monie. "It was a good ground, a good atmosphere and it showed that the people of South Wales want to go to a rugby league match – *which is great.*"

Not too much should be read into these matches when it comes to deciding which cities should be able to go to a match every fortnight when Super League expands – as it must – next season.

Gateshead's credibility took something of a knock on the opening night, but that was repaired to some extent when more locals turned up to watch Hull play Huddersfield.

"I think we are the front-runners now," said the Swansea City chairman, Neil McClure, after a buoyant evening at the Vetch Field. He knows, however, that it was the fixture rather than the venue that made that the best attended match. What that and the game in Cardiff prove is that there must be a team in South Wales next season.

Lindsay believes that there is much to be learned from the exercise – and not just in matters like avoiding the ludicrous colour clash at Northampton.

Next season, he suggested, the best course might be to take a few "blockbusters" around the country. And "somewhere like Edinburgh" could even stage one of the play-off games this year, he said.

That is where fantasy starts to take over from reality. Try telling Bradford, for instance, that they must give up home advantage in a game that leads to the Grand Final. That is an idea that has not been thought out properly. Rugby League is on the road to somewhere, but it is still prone to navigating as it goes.

Wigan's Simon Haughton, dwarfed by the giant screen at the Vetch Field in Swansea on Sunday *Varley*

ON THE ROAD WITH SUPER LEAGUE: HOW THE SIX VENUES RATED

GATESHEAD

FRIDAY 10 JULY: Leeds 34 Salford 16.
ATTENDANCE: 4,122.
A bad night in the North-east. Foul weather, a poor spectacle and an announced crowd that looked suspiciously doctored.

NORTHAMPTON

FRIDAY 17 JULY: Halifax 32 Sheffield 10.
ATTENDANCE: 3,087.
A modest crowd at a modest ground, but there was a cheerful, upbeat atmosphere and a fine display from Halifax. Both teams played in blue, which can hardly have been of any help to newcomers.

EDINBURGH

SATURDAY 18 JULY: London 22 Bradford 8.
ATTENDANCE: 6,863.
The Bulls' unique fans went north in numbers, but Shaun Edwards dominated the atmospheric Tynecastle with a performance that demolished his former club.

GATESHEAD

FRIDAY 24 JULY: Hull 21 Huddersfield 10.
ATTENDANCE: 4,306.
A far better night at the International Stadium. Not the greatest of games, but a good, tight contest decided by an outstanding centre display from Logan Campbell.

CARDIFF

SATURDAY 25 JULY: Castleford 23 Warrington 16.
ATTENDANCE: 4,437.
Respectable turn-out – although a better guide to the potential at Cardiff Arms Park was that 34 of the 37 boxes were sold. Dreadful first half, thrilling second.

SWANSEA

SUNDAY 26 JULY: Wigan 36 St Helens 2.
ATTENDANCE: 8,572.
They came down from the valleys again and saw Wigan's Andy Farrell, Gary Connolly and Kris Radlinski demonstrate just how good the best rugby league players are.

Leeds RU get Sailor on short contract

BY DAVE HADFIELD

THE LEEDS rugby union club will this morning announce the signing of the Australian Test winger, Wendell Sailor, on a short-term contract for this winter. Sailor was supposed to be joining Wigan, but had a change of heart. Leeds have succeeded where the rugby league club failed because of a clause in Sailor's new contract with the Brisbane Broncos, which allows him to play rugby union in Britain during the Australian close-season.

Gary Hetherington, chief executive of both the league and union clubs at Leeds, said that Sailor's arrival will quickly bring in the extra spectators that will pay for the deal.

Contradictory signals have come out of Headingley about the precise nature of the contract. Hetherington has said Sailor is prevented from playing league, but a Leeds Rugby Union spokesman said yesterday that the announcement will be of significance to both codes.

Among the more conventional deals taking shape is the one that will take the Salford centre, Nathan McAvoy, to Bradford. The Bulls also hope to be able to unveil the Huddersfield prop, Neil Harmon, this week. He will be joining them next season as a free agent, but Bradford hope Huddersfield will accept a payment and release him for the rest of this campaign.

Salford have recruited Joey Hayes from St Helens, while Saints are set to sign the Australian prop, Phil Adamson. Wigan are expected to sell their prop, Neil Cowie, to Hull this week, while Bradford have joined London in tracking Featherstone's Karl Pratt.

Meanwhile, York expect to complete their fixtures this season after reaching agreement with their players, who had threatened to strike when they were not paid.

The Rugby League has until Friday to submit its defence to a writ served by Blackpool Gladiators, claiming £80,000 in lost earnings after being denied a place in the league.

Sainz storms to historic victory

RALLYING

CARLOS SAINZ raced to victory in the New Zealand Rally yesterday to become the most successful rally driver in history. The Spaniard chalked up his 22nd world rally championship victory in winning the 25-stage rally in 3hr 54min 57.1sec – taking him one win ahead of the Finn Juha Kankkunen.

Sainz finished 4.1sec ahead of his French Toyota team-mate Didier Auriol, whom he trailed by 30.4sec overnight.

Sainz's victory also made him the new leader of the championship, overhauling Britain's Colin McRae. McRae, fourth overnight, and his fellow Briton Richard Burns, slipped back after experiencing problems. Burns, who was third overnight, rolled his Mitsubishi 12 kilometres from the end of the stage and dropped to 14th.

McRae suffered a puncture half-way through the stage to drop to fifth behind Tommi Makinen and Kankkunen. Burns fought back to finish ninth after clocking the fastest time on the final three stages.

Last year the final day of the event was a huge disappointment for Sainz thanks to an encounter with a sheep on the first stage of the day, which stalled his challenge for first place.

Sainz said: "The win is both important and special for me. It was never going to be easy and Didier drove superbly for the whole rally. We both lost time with a wrong tyre choice early in the day but our fight to the finish was a fair one."

Burns said: "We pushed hard all the way, and we were the only ones putting the two Toyotas under any pressure. Once again, I'm left with mixed emotions. In the conditions I don't think anyone could have caught the two Toyotas but for most of the rally we were the best of the rest which gives me good reason to be happy with my performance. That said, I'm annoyed that for the second rally in a row, I missed out with a podium finish in sight. That's incredibly frustrating."

Clubs want to run European cup

RUGBY UNION

DOUG ASH, the chief executive of the English Rugby Partnership, is looking to create a new European event after leading French clubs pulled out of the European Cup.

The French action follows the withdrawal of the leading English clubs from this year's competition before last season's tournament was completed.

Ash, also chief executive of English First Division Rugby, stressed time was against setting up a fresh competition. Any new initiative would only proceed with the approval of the governing unions, but it appeared that European Rugby Cup Ltd, which organises the European Cup, was no longer viable.

He said: "ERC have lost the bulk of clubs who have featured in the knock-out stages of the last two competitions, in our case, because we disagree with the way the ERC organised the competition.

"If we can set something up, it will be organised by the clubs with the approval of the unions. But there are huge factors that need to be favourable – commerce, TV, sponsorship and, overridingly, inserting the fixtures into a crowded season."

The Scottish authorities have warned English and French clubs that they would be in breach of International Rugby Board regulations if they joined forces to form a new competition.

Bristol rugby players will not be paid this month – but they are staying together in the hope of playing for the club next season. The Allied Dunbar Premiership Two club, who were relegated from the top flight last season, was placed in the hands of the the receivers last Thursday.

But the players have not yet been made redundant nor are they free to join other clubs. The club, or any other interested party, has 14 days before that happens.

BEVERLEY

HYPERION

2.00 Shambles 2.30 Pilot's Harbour 3.05 Raed 3.35 *Smarter Charter* 4.10 *Top Tarn* 4.45 *Mousehole* 5.15 Cottaga Prince

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: All races inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers usually best up to a mile.
■ Right-hand, galloping course with very stiff 5f
■ Course is 1m W of town on A1035. Beverley station 2m. **ADMISSION:** Club £14; Tattersalls £9 (OAPs £6); Silver Ring £3 (OAPs £2); Course Enclosure £2 (OAPs £1.50); Picnic area £2 or £2 per car, plus £2 per occupant. **CAR PARK:** Free.
■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** J Berry 24-136 (17.6%). O Loder 19-38 (50%). Mrs J Ramsden 17-108 (15.7%). Mrs M Reveley 12-108 (11.1%).
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** J Carroll 18-123 (14.6%). L Charnock 13-178 (7.3%). Dean McKeown 10-142 (7%). G Carter 8-76 (10.5%).
■ **FAVOURITES:** 233-620 (37.6%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Top Of The Form (4.45), Tiye (visored, 5.15).

2.00 LADYGATE SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 addad 3YO 1m 4f

1 62-050 PERCY (11) J Hetherton 8 7 ..... G Carter 8
2 644-00 THE ROBE (8) A Carroll 9 0 ..... M Tebbutt 8
3 0-0000 CULTURED KING (10) J G Smyth-Osbourne 8 13 ..Aimee Cook (5) 13
4 0-0325 SHARP SHOOTER (18) S Kettlewell 8 11 ..... J Tate 10
5 0450 TUFTY STAR (29) J Pearce 8 11 ..... J Carroll 2
6 640000 SILVER HOPE (4) (D) R Hollinshead 8 9 ..... D Sweeney 4 V
7 0000 LUISIANA LADY (20) B Hanbury 8 8 ..... Doubtful 12
8 00-032 SKYERS A KITE (3) (BF) Ron Thompson 8 8 ..... J Lowe 5
9 560020 EAGER HERO (40) M Brittain 8 4 ..... P Robinson 7
10 000003 SHAMBLES (8) G Margarson 8 4 ..... M Henry 1
11 00-0 RUNADRUM (10) J Hetherton 8 4 ..... J Quinn 3
12 0-000 AUDEEN (31) N Callaghan 7 12 ..... F Norton 11
13 465036 JOLI FILLE (25) J Wainwright 7 11 ..... W Supple 9
– 13 declared –

BETTING: 11-4 Silver Hope, 4-1 Sharp Shooter, 5-1 Shambles, 8-1 Skyers A Kite, Joli Fille, 10-1 Eager Hero, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A pathetic collection of platers with only one winner in the field and that was in a seller on the all-weather. However something has to win and the obvious ones are Skyers A Kite and SHAMBLES. Very marginal preference is for the latter who ran well against older horses last time.

2.30 EBF MINSTER MOORGATE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 7f 100yds

1 5 KING FLYER (16) B Hanbury 9 0 ..... D O'Donohoe 5
2 PEKAN HEIGHTS (USA) E Dunlop 9 0 ..... J Carroll 1
3 352 PILOT'S HARBOUR (13) J Dunlop 9 0 ..... G Carter 4
4 34 RIVERBLUE (16) Mrs J Ramsden 9 0 ..... O Pears 2
5 0 MOLLY MACK (16) A Carroll 8 9 ..... M Tebbutt 3
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Pilot's Harbour, 5-2 Riverblue, 7-2 King Flyer, 4-1 Pekan Heights, 20-1 Molly Mack.

FORM VERDICT

King Flyer showed distinct signs of ability on his debut and will appreciate the step up to 7f and Pekan Heights is worth noting in the betting exchanges, but both would have to be above average if they are to cope with PILOT'S HARBOUR.

3.05 TIMEFORM LADIES RACE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 1m 2f

1 120222 RAED (16) Mrs A Swinbank 5 11 0 ..... Diane Jones 3
2 22316 IRON MOUNTAIN (13) (D BF) N Callaghan 3 10 1 ..Emma Ramsden 1
3 42200- GOLD BLADE (298) (CD) J Pearce 9 10 1 ..... Lydia Pearce 5
4 -00650 PORTUGUESE LIL (11) M Sowersby 5 9 8 ..... Pauline Robson 9
5 200060 ANCHOR VENTURE (4) (D) D Chapman 5 9 4 ..... Alex Greaves 4
6 544450 TILAAL (USA) (10) M Hammond 8 9 3 ...Alexandra Hammond (5) 7
7 0-0002 BUZZ THE AGENT (14) M W Easterby 3 9 1 Serena Brotherton (5) 10 B
8 0/0-04 AMBER VALLEY (43) D Williams 7 9 0 ..... Susannah Ainsworth 8
9 030404 STOLEN MUSIC (13) R Barr 5 8 7 ..... Alison Dezlel 2
10 0-3650 PATRITA PARK (17) W G M Turner 4 8 7 ..... Claire Stretton (5) 8
– 10 declared –

Minimum weight 8st 7lb. True handicap weights: Stolen Music 8st 4lb, Patrita Park 8st.
BETTING: 7-4 Raed, 3-1 Iron Mountain, 11-2 Buzz The Agent, 8-1 Gold Blade, Anchor Venture, Tilaal, 16-1 Stolen Music, Patrita Park, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Raed has the best form but has the annoying habit of always finding one too good on turf and is becoming a bit of a bookies' friend. Iron Mountain may not appreciate the stiff track here and BUZZ THE AGENT, who stayed on really well over the extended 1m here last time, could be on the upgrade and represent a bit of value.

3.35 TOUCH ABOVE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 100yds

1 -41006 THREE FOR A POUND (40) (D) J Glover 4 9 10 ..... S D Williams 7
2 20-211 SMARTER CHARTER (8) (CD) Mrs L Stubbs 5 9 10 (6ex) ..P Robinson 9
3 600245 GYMCRAK FLYER (13) (D) G Holmes 7 9 4 ..... J Quinn 8 B
4 155201 GENUINE JOHN (10) (D) J Parkes 5 9 3 ..... J Carroll 2
5 004003 COURT EXPRESS (4) T Etherington 4 9 2 ..... O Pears 1
6 633066 MURPHY'S GOLD (8) (CD) R Fahey 7 8 8 ..... R Winston (5) 4
7 006033 EURO SCEPTIC (8) (CD) T Easterby 8 8 4 ..... L Charnock 8 B
8 290163 PLEASURE TRICK (USA) (133) (D) E Incisa 7 8 3 ..... Kim Tinkler 5
9 160502 THATCHED (8) (CD) R Barr 8 8 3 ..... N Kennedy 3
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Euro Sceptic, 4-1 Smarter Charter, 5-1 Thatched, 11-2 Murphy's Gold, 7-1 Three For A Pound, Genuine John, 8-1 Gymcrak Flyer, 10-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Smarter Charter is clearly in good heart and must go well again, but he only just scraped home last time and is vulnerable under a 6lb penalty. Euro Sceptic and Murphy's Gold go well here and cannot be discounted but THATCHED is well handicapped, travelled very well last time and will appreciate the return to 1m.

4.10 FAMILY DAY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2YO fillies 5f

1 56 PIGGY BANK (103) M W Easterby 8 7 ..... T Lucas 5
2 SWISSMATIC P Haslam 8 7 ..... P Goode (7) 14
3 0 TOP TARN (15) C Wall 8 7 ..... G Hind 17
4 0 BUSINESS WOMAN (3) M W Easterby 8 3 ..... G Parkin 1
5 60 ELSIE BAMFORD (34) J Berry 8 3 ..... Iona Wands (5) 7
6 66 KISSIMMEE BAY (16) N Tinkler 8 3 ..... Kim Tinkler 3
7 0006 SISTER PATRICE (17) Mrs P Dutfield 8 3 ..... O Sweeney 15
8 ATOMIK Dr J Scargill 8 0 ..... J Quinn 16
9 2 COOL KATIE (14) K Ryan 8 0 ..... R Winston (5) 2
10 0004 DAZZLING QUINTET (14) C Smith 8 0 ..... M Henry 13
11 05 EMWILLGED (41) P Haslam 8 0 ..... Dale Gibson 12
12 0 ETMA ROSE (10) R Hollinshead 8 0 ..... P M Quinn (7) 11
13 IPCRESS FILLY J Eustace 8 0 ..... J Tate 8
14 3220 SAFFRON (24) J Glover 8 0 ..... L Charnock 5
15 36 TICKLISH (17) W Haggas 8 0 ..... W Supple 10
16 05 TIME TEMPTRESS (11) G M Moore 8 0 ..... J McAuley (7) 8
17 66 TULLYNESSLE (96) M W Easterby 8 0 ..... S Finnamore (7) 4
– 17 declared –

BETTING: 6-1 Cool Katie, 7-1 Saffron, Tickish, 8-1 Top Tarn, Kissimmee Bay, Dazzling Quintet, 10-1 Elsie Bamford, Ipcress Filly, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Not too many to consider here despite the numbers and TICKLISH can only be a tentative selection on her return to 5f. Cool Katie is probably the one to beat on her debut effort over course and distance but she showed a lot of pace that day and will surely be inconvenienced by her low draw if she tries to adopt the same tactics today.

4.45 'GO RACING IN YORKSHIRE' CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 added 5f

1 06322 MOUSEHOLE (11) (D) R Guest 8 9 5 ..... J Carroll 1
2 -02050 FAIRY PRINCE (11) (D) Mrs A King 5 9 2 ..... J Quinn 5
3 -05400 GWESPYR (14) (D) Enrico Incisa 5 9 2 ..... Kim Tinkler 3
4 40-430 PLUM FIRST (3) (D) L Lloyd-James 8 9 2 ..... Kimberley Hart (5) 2
5 00-060 TOP OF THE FORM (4) (D) K Ryan 4 8 13 ..... O Pears 4 B
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 11-8 Mousehole, 3-1 Fairy Prince, 5-1 Plum First, 11-2 Gwespyr, 7-1 Top Of The Form.

FORM VERDICT

Mousehole is in good form at present and with conditions in his favour must go well. However, provided FAIRY PRINCE does not lose the race before the start he rates a very serious danger as he usually strikes top form at about this time each season.

5.15 SWINGS AND ROUNDABOUTS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 1m 4f

1 04052 KINTAVI (43) (D) T Dorrelly 8 9 0 ..... R Winston (5) 4
2 50410 HASTA LA VISTA (14) (D) M W Easterby 8 9 6 ..... T Lucas 7 B
3 006254 OUR WAY (17) M Brittain 4 9 4 ..... P Robinson 8
4 5-5823 TIYE (8) D Wilkins 3 9 3 ..... D Griffiths (5) 1 V
5 0-0053 COTTAGE PRINCE (13) (D) J J Quinn 5 8 10 ..... J Quinn 2
6 000-40 BOLD TOP (21) (D) M Sowersby 8 8 8 ..... O Pears 10 B
7 560316 DISCO TEX (13) (BF) M W Easterby 3 8 5 ..... G Parkin 6 B
8 140005 RAJAH (24) (D) C Thornton 5 8 1 ..... F Norton 5
9 04-034 KICKONSUN (14) K Ryan 4 7 11 ..... J McAuley (7) 3
10 00000- ARE YER THERE (381) M W Easterby 3 7 10 ..... L Charnock 6
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 4-1 Hasta La Vista, 5-1 Kintavi, Cottage Prince, 5-1 Our Way, 7-1 Disco Tex, 8-1 Tiye, Bold Top, 10-1 others

FORM VERDICT

RAJAH may be the answer here, after a good effort last time. This race is marginally easier so even a reproduction of that bare form for his in-form yard may suffice despite racing off a slightly higher mark here. Disco Tex, progressive at a moderate level and whose stable is also in excellent form, looks the main danger.

■ Secret Saver, who had been installed as 7-1 favourite for the Ebor Handicap when betting opened on the race last week, is to by-pass the race. In a statement yesterday, Stoute said: "I would like to inform the betting public that Secret Saver will not be running in the Ebor Handicap." A spokeswoman for the yard was unable to elaborate on any reason for the colt's absence.

■ *Pasternak*, who has a choice of engagements at Goodwood this week, remains a possible for the William Hill Mile Handicap on Thursday. The five-year-old is also entered in the Theo Fennell Glorious Rated Handicap over 12 furlongs on Friday.

RACING RESULTS

NEWCASTLE

2.15: (6f maiden auction stakes, 2yo)
1. TWO CLUBS ..... Martin Dwyer 5-1
2. Espada ..... J Carroll 4-1
3. Trinity ..... K Darley 9-4 Fav
Also ran: 6-1 Samson's Lily, 8-1 Montague Tigg, 12-1 Clarendon (6th), 20-1 Carequick, 25-1 Durham Dandy, 25-1 Premiere Division, 25-1 Rigadoon, 25-1 Spy (4th), 25-1 Tunnel Bridge (5th), 33-1 Gravy Boat, 50-1 Mill End Venture.
14 ran. 2½l, 1, nk, 3, hd. (winner bay filly by First Trump out of Miss Cindy, trained by Mrs J Cecil, Newmarket, for Stephen R Hobson). Tote: win £720; places £160, £210, £110. Dual Forecast: £26.90. CSF: £22.32

2.45: (1m2f maiden stakes)
1. AIM HIGH ..... K Darley 1-3 Fav
2. Blow Me A Kiss ..Dean McKeown 9-2
3. My Desperado ..... K Hodgson 11-1
Also: 20-1 Channel's Hill (4th), 20-1 Lord Lamb (5th).
5 ran. 1.3, 12, 18 (winner bay mare by Sadlers Wells out of Aim For The Top, trained by Sir Michael Stoute, Newmarket, for Cheveley Park Stud). Tote: win £120; places £10, £200. Dual forecast: £1.70. CSF: £2.06.

3.15: (5f maiden)
1. ANTONIA'S DOUBLE C Lowther 13-2
2. Bollin Ann ..... J Fortune 5-2
3. Scintillating Sound .... C Teague 50-1
Also: 13-8 Fav Law Review, 3-1 Allmates (4th)
5 ran. 3, 6 2½. (winner chestnut filly by Primo Domenie out of Mainly Sunset, trained by J Berry, Cockerham, for Chris & Antona Deuters). Tote: win £7.60; places £4.50, £1.20. Dual forecast: £8.30. CSF: £19.57

3.45: (7f handicap)
1. ROYAL MARK ..... J Fortune 4-1 Fav
2. Thwaab ..... N Kennedy 7-1
3. Malteamia ..... Teague 12-1
Also: 11-2 Saint Express, 8-1 Durad (5th), 10-1 Style Dancer (6th), 12-1 Grey Kingdom, 12-1 King of The River, 12-1 Smokey From Capiaw, 14-1 Petite Danseuse, 16-1 The Munro's, 20-1 Fancy A Fortune (4th), 25-1 Selkirk Rose, 33-1 Sun Dancing
14 ran. ½, 1 ¾, hd, nk. (winner bay filly by Fairy King out of Take Your Mark, trained by T Easterby, Malton, for M P Burkes 5th Family Settlement). Tote: £4.50; £2.10, £3.30, £2.90. DF: £20.10. CSF: £28.07. Tricast: £298.57.

4.15: (7f handicap, 3yo)
1. MELODIAN ..... N Kennedy 25-1
2. Jacobina ..... K Darley 12-1
3. Balance The Books ....J Carroll 16-1
4. Spring Beacon ....Martin Dwyer 33-1
Also: 9-4 Fav Shalyah, 11-2 Saintas, 8-1 Dangerman (5th), 8-1 Durham Flyer, 9-1 Cosmic Case, 9-1 Pride of Bryn, 11-1 Ribble Assembly, 12-1 Kolby (6th), 20-1 Ella Falls, 20-1 Flusen Pride, 20-1 Guest Envoy, 25-1 Geeke Quinn, 25-1 Hussar, 25-1 Snowballs, 25-1 Supacalifragilistik, 50-1 Miss Pugh
20 ran. 1¾l, hd, 3¼, ¾, sh-hd. (winner bay colt by Grey Desire out of Mere Melody, owned and trained by Mel Brittain, Wart Hill). Tote: win £10.00, £14.60, £2.30, £2.70, £7.10. DF: £102.30. CSF: £303.94 Tricast: £4,833.11.

4.45: (1m4f handicap)
1. SING AND DANCE L Charnock 13-2
2. Vanadium Ore .. J Weaver 2-1 Jt Fav
3. Sheffishayes .... Dean McKeown 8-1
Also: 2-1 Jt Fav Crystal Falls, 10-1 Dead Aim, 10-1 Hiding Place (5th), 14-1 Rose Royale (4th)
7 ran. 1½, nk, nk, nk. (winner bay mare by Rambo Dancer out of Musical Princess, trained by E Weymes, Leyburn, for Mrs N Napier) Tote: win £8.10; places £2.00, £1.40. Dual forecast: £7.00. CSF: £16.69.
Placepot: £232.60. Quadpot: £175.20.
Place 6: £. Place 5: £.

FOLKESTONE

2.00: 1. LIGHTNING BLAZE (A McCarthy) 5-6 fav; 2. Magic Memories 9-2; 3. Credenza 10-1 B ran. Hd, 1½. (P McEntee, Maidenhead). Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.40, £1.80. Dual Forecast: £3.70 Computer Straight Forecast: £4.86.
2.30: 1. CALANDO (D Holland) 11-2; 2. Lady Georgia 5-1; 3. Salestria 7-1. 14 ran. 3-1 fav Zabaad (5th). 4, 3. (O Loder, Newmarket). Tote: £8.50; £2.80, £1.90, £2.20. Dual Forecast: £15.40. CSF: £32.33 Non Runner: Hawaitel.
3.00: 1. SUITE FACTORS (N Callan) 5-1 fav; 2. Tajmil 16-1; 3. Clonoe 8-1; 4. Chief Blade 7-1. 16 ran. 6, 1½. (K Burke, Wantage). Tote: £5.90; £1.70, £2.50, £1.90, £1.80. DF: £48.50. CSF: £82.39. Tricast: £607.90.
3.30: 1. PRIMATICCIO (G Duffield) 3-1; 2. Operatic 5-2; 3. Mail Shot 13-8 fav. 5 ran. 6, 2½. (Sir Mark Prescott, Newmarket). Tote: £3.90; £1.80, £1.50. Dual Forecast: £5.20. CSF: £10.09.
4.00: 1. MYSTIC QUEST (Dane O'Neill) 14-1; 2. Coh Sho No 3-1; 3. Bowled Over 10-1. 15 ran. 1½, 3. (K McAuliffe, Lambourn). Tote: £21.00; £4.10, £1.70, £2.80. DF: £41.30. CSF: £52.58. Tricast: £431.71. NR: Chandler's Hall.
4.30: 1. TORNADO PRINCE (N Callan) 4-6 fav; 2. Nisaba 14-1; 3. Misalliance 5-1. 5 ran. 5, 4. (N Callaghan, Newmarket). Tote: £1.80; £1.60, £2.70. DF: £8.10. CSF: £11.57. NR: Golden Reprimand.
Jackpot: £3,710.50
Placepot: £51.00. Quadpot: £16.10.
Place 6: £. Place 5: £.

WINDSOR

6.15: 1. INDIANA LEGEND (Pat Eddery) 8-11 fav; 2. Central Coast 7-1; 3. Smittenby 8-1. 16 ran. 1½, ½. (B Meehan). Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £2.70, £1.80. DF: £7.20. CSF: £7.43. NR: Undeterred.

YARMOUTH

6.00: 1. DANEGOLD (A Eddery) 11-2; 2. Shahrani 66-1; 3. Noufari 4-1. 6 ran. 1½, 1½. (M Channon). Tote: £8.90; £2.00, £4.40, £1.60. Dual Forecast: £92.70. Computer Straight Forecast: £253.99. Tricast: £1,443.84.
6.30: 1. LIVELY JACO (N Carlisle) 3-1; 2. Ace of Trumps 9-4; 3. Caerdydd Fach 5-4 fav. 5 ran. 1, nk. (C Allen). Tote: £5.20; £1.60, £2.00. DF: £4.50. CSF: £9.87 Winner bought in for 5,500 guineas.

7.00: 1. FADMOOR (A Nichols) 33-1; 2. Baltic Lowland 15-8; 3. Aegean Flame 100-30. 4 ran. 11-10 fav Midnish Two (4th). sh-hd, 2. (M Tompkins) Tote: £25.00. DF: £12.90. CSF: £82.69 After a stewards' inquiry, the result stood.

■ Lester Piggott, who is at the Galway Festival, will lift his binoculars long before the horses reach the start for today's opening race. The 62-year-old former champion jockey will peer anxiously across the choppy waters of Galway Bay, hoping to sight Tracy, his daughter, who has chosen to swim the six nautical miles from Co Clare to Co Galway in an attempt to raise IR£100,000 for charity. Tracy, 33, has opted to do things the hard way by traversing the bay, made famous by the song of the same name, underwater. Tracy, a sports presenter on RTE, , will swim at a depth of around six metres below the surface and expects to complete her marathon journey in around six hours. Later, she take off her snorkel and attend a glittering party in a local hotel, staged to raise further funds for her chosen charity, The John Durkan Leukaemia Trust. John Durkan died in January at the age of 32 from leukaemia – shortly before he was due to set up as a trainer. His first horse was to be Istabraq, which he had persuaded J P McManus, the legendary gambler, to purchase as a coutender for this year's Champion Hurdle, a race which he went on to win. Tracy said yesterday: "John was a close friend of mine and I was determined to do something in his memory after he died. I've always enjoyed scuba diving and decided that a marathon underwater swim might attract the right publicity.

THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 28 July 1998

Rejected Black might retire early

ATHLETICS

By Mike Rowbottom

ROGER BLACK'S career in athletics is in the balance following yesterday's decision by the British selectors to pick Solomon Wariso, rather than him, for the remaining individual 400 metres place at next month's European Championships.

Black, the 32-year-old British team captain, due to retire at the end of this season, is giving serious consideration to quitting now after seeing his one remaining major ambition put beyond reach.

The prospect of repeating last season's experience, when he ran only in the relay at the world championships, is something he is finding hard to come to terms with after setting his heart on a farewell attempt at winning a third European title.

Yesterday, Black said he was "still in a state of shock" after narrowly missing out on third place to Wariso in a race where the two automatic qualifying places went, as expected, to the winner Iwan Thomas and Mark Richardson.

Black said: "I thought the optional third place was for this situation. As I lost by only three hundredths of a second I thought they could have left it until the cut-off date of 8 August. It appears my record doesn't count for anything. I am an athlete motivated by major championships. My sole focus this year was the Europeans. Over the next few days I have to reflect on my motivation."

Black lowered his season's best from 45.18sec to 44.71 at Birmingham, but Wariso, who only chose to compete in the 400m rather than his usual distance of 200m the day before the championships began, lowered his outdoor best from 46.55 to 44.68 in what was only his fourth outdoor 400m race. The 31-year-old Haringey athlete had appeared to muddy the waters in the aftermath of Sunday night's race, claiming he had only entered the 400 "for a laugh", and adding he would prefer a run at Budapest over 200.

However, Britain's chief coach, Max Jones, confirmed that the selectors, who met late on Sunday night, had given the place to Wariso after checking how he felt. There was little chance that the third man in the 200m, the European under-23 champion Julian Golding, would be bumped out in favour of a 31-year-old, especially as Golding only missed second place by 0.01sec.

Jones said: "Solomon said before the championships that he wanted to do the 400 metres and again confirmed it at midnight last night when we got him out of bed to ascertain his wishes. Wariso is very talented at both 200 and 400 metres. In particular we believe he has an awesome talent at 400. If you look at the statistics, he could win in Budapest. It was a very difficult decision to make. I have known Roger since 1986. It will be tragic for everyone in the end if he doesn't go to Budapest. He can finish on a high note there in the 4x400 metres relay team. If Roger does go, he will be appointed captain. He is regarded with the highest respect by all the team. You have to exclude sentiment from team selection."

Black was the captain last year, helping to earn a relay silver medal in Athens despite having his individual racing undermined by a viral illness.

Mike Whittingham, Black's manager, believes that with another couple of races, Black could be in 44.4sec shape — and ready to contest the European title itself. But those races may now never take place.

Wariso yesterday promised to give "110 per cent" to running the 400. He admitted he had been "a bit flippant" after Sunday's race, but added: "I felt I had to play it a bit lightly. I had had 18 months off and I just wanted to come back and have a laugh and a joke with the boys."

He has never won a major medal, and disappointed at this year's European indoor championships despite going as favourite in the 400m after at Birmingham in an outstanding time of 45.71. As a measure of his commitment, however, Wariso is now planning to postpone his wedding, which was due to take place in Florida next week, in order to prepare for Budapest.

Curiously, Black postponed his own wedding, due to take place last October, for the same reason. There is another odd link between the two; Wariso was born six months after Black in the same hospital — St Mary's, in Portsmouth. Now their destinies have interlinked, although Wariso, reasonably enough, stressed it was not he who had denied Black his last run, but the selectors.

Elsewhere there was little of a controversial nature for the selectors to deliberate upon. They have until 8 August to add names to the team, and a number of athletes are still seeking European qualifying marks, including Diane Modahl, who will attempt to break 2min 01sec for the 800m in Paris tomorrow night.

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM FOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men: 100m: D Campbell, D Chambers (both Belgrave). **M Devonish** (Coventry); **200m: D Walker** (Newham). **D Turner** (Cardiff), **J Golding** (Blackheath). **400m: I Thomas** (Newham), **M Richardson** (Windsor). **S Wariso** (Haringey); **800m: A Hart** (Coventry); **1500m: J Mayock** (Cannock). **A Whiteman** (GEC Avonos); **5,000m: K Keska** (Birchfield), **10,000m: K Cullen** (Chelmsford). **J Brown** (Sheffield); **Marathon: R Nerurkar** (Bingley). **M Hudspith** (Morpeth), **D Buzza** (Cornwall); **110m hurdles: C Jackson** (Brecon). **A Jarrett** (Haringey). **400m hurdles: P Gray** (Cardiff). **A Bonsamato** (Sale), **C Rawlinson** (Belgrave); **Long jump: N Morgan** (Birchfield); **Triple jump: J Edwards** (Gateshead). **L Achike** (Shaftesbury). **J Golley** (TVH), **Shot: M Proctor** (RAF). **S Pickering** (Haringey); **Discus: R Weir** (Birchfield). **Javelin: S Backley** (Cambridge). **M Hill** (Leeds). **M Robertson** (Newham). **4x100m relay (from): Campbell, Chambers, Devonish, Walker; A Condon** (Sale). **Golding. 4x400m: Thomas, Richardson, Wariso, R Black** (Team Solent). **M Hylton** (Windsor). **S Baldock** (Belgrave).

Women: 100m: J Madusaka (Essex Ladies). **200m: K Merry** (Birchfield). **S Willsiny** (Southend); **400m: A Curbishley** (Edinburgh). **D Fraser** (Croydon). **800m: T Blake** (Unattached). **10,000m: P Radcliffe** (Bedford); **10km walk: L Kehler** (Wolverhampton); **400m hurdles: N Danvers** (Croydon); **Pole vault: J Whitlock** (Trafford); **Triple jump: A Hansen. C Henry** (both Shaftesbury). **M Griffiths** (Windsor); **Shot: J Oakes** (Croydon); **Discus: S Drew** (Sutton). **Hammer: L Shaw** (Sale). **L Sprules** (Hounslow); **Heptathlon: D Lewis** (Birchfield); **4x400m relay: Curbishley, Fraser, M Thomas** (Birchfield). **Danvers, V Jamison** (Lagan).

Tour de France: Last year's winner loses the yellow jersey as the pirate finally fulfils his promise

Jan Ullrich (centre), who lost his position as the Tour overall leader after yesterday's 15th stage, is with the main bunch descending Col de la Croix de Fer in the rain *Reuters*

Pantani's pace leaves Ullrich trailing

By Robin Nicholl
with the Tour de France

MARCO PANTANI conquered the Alps and his rivals yesterday. Today he rules the Tour de France after a remarkable performance that smashed the dreams of other contenders and left the Tour favourite, Jan Ullrich, limping home almost nine minutes in arrears.

For misty-eyed Italians it brought back memories of 1952 when Fausto Coppi, slim and courageous like Pantani, won the Giro d'Italia and the Tour. Last month Pantani, known as *Il Pirata* because of his bandana head-dress, gold ear-ring, and beard, sent Italy ecstatic when he won the Giro on his favourite terrain, the Dolomite mountains.

"I had the courage to do this Tour and to attack today especially in such awful weather," the Italian said after finishing alone at Les Deux Alpes ski station in glacial rain. "I had many doubts at the beginning, but now I have reached my goal. I just want to enjoy the most beautiful day of my life.

"Some say my victories are boring because I attack and finish alone, but I took risks today. I attacked far from the finish. I was able to stand the fatigue because in recent years I have had many opportunities to suffer. I just picked the right time to attack. Maybe I was more convinced than the others. When I attacked and no one responded that gave me extra determination."

Yet Pantani and Italy have had an impatient wait for his full promise to emerge. He spent 1996 out of action after smashing his left shin in a road accident, then returned to the Giro last year only to tangle with a wandering cat and spend more time out with injuries.

His victory at Les Deux Alpes yesterday broke up the Tour, with Ullrich looking nothing like his winning self, even more so after a puncture. The impact of Pantani's triumph can be weighed by the fact that he was 3min 1sec behind the German overnight, and is now Tour leader by 3:53 from the American Bobby Julich, with Ullrich fourth, 5:56 adrift.

Ullrich was braced for attacks over the four mountain climbs. Julich's men, with their leader only 1:11 behind the German, were soon busy, and with attacks coming from all sides, Ullrich's team had to fight to hold command at the front of the group.

Ahead of them, the Italian Rodolfo Massi was picking up more points towards his defence of the polka dot jersey awarded for scoring points at designated summits. He was no danger to the yellow-jersey chasers, but Pantani was. As the contenders climbed the mighty Galibier, the Tour's biggest mountain at 2,645 metres, Pantani was hurled in the group, awaiting his chance.

When the Italian attacks it is with the speed of a man sprinting on a flat road. Few, if any, can hold him. "He was incredible," Julich said. "I knew he was very dangerous but I did not think he could do what he did today. He made the rest of us look silly."

Pantani was first to cross the top of the 16-kilometre mountain pass, as Coppi had been on his way to victory 46 years ago. Then, on the rain-slicked descent Pantani attempted to put on his plastic rain-top, but the wind threatened to whip it away. He stopped to zip up safely, and still had 2:47 on Ullrich as they descended to the valley to begin the final climb to Les Deux Alpes.

Pantani had Massi, Fernando Escartin, of Spain, the Frenchman Christophe Rinero and another Spaniard, Marcos Serrano, for company but eight kilometres from the finish his final hurst sent him 1:54 clear of Massi at the finish. Behind him, Ullrich had his puncture and Julich had a scare when he ran out of road descending from the Galibier, and crashed, just missing a parked camper van.

There are more days in the mountain to come and there is every possibility that Pantani's legs may be inflicting further torture before the remaining 141 riders reach Paris on Sunday.

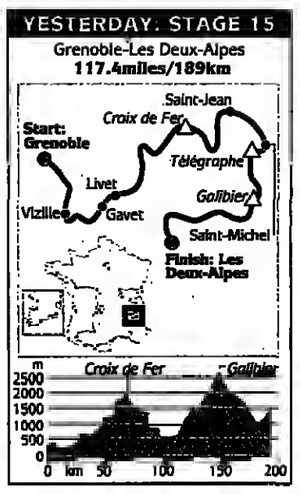
Yesterday, one Italian sat quietly smiling to himself as he watched Pantani's show. Felice Gimondi was reliving his moment of yellow jersey triumph 33 years ago. It is that long since an Italian won the world's biggest race.

TOUR DE FRANCE 15th stage (117.5 miles, Grenoble to Les Deux Alpes): 1 M Pantani (It) Mercatone Uno 5hr 43m 45sec; 2 R Massi (It) Casino +1min 54sec; 3 F Escartin (Sp) Kelme +1:59; 4 C Rinero (Fr) Cofidis +2:57; 5 B Julich (US) Cofidis +5:43; 6 M Boogerd (Neth) Rabobank +5:45; 7 M Serrano (Sp) Kelme +6:04; 8 J-C Robin (Fr) US Postal +6:34; 9 M Beltran (Sp) Banesto +6:40; 10 O Baranowski (Pol) US Postal +6:40; 11 A Merckx (Bel) Polti +6:40; 12 G Casagrande (It) +6:40; 13 L Piepoli (It) Saeco +6:40; 14 O Nardello (It) Mapei +6:40; 15 A Casero (Sp) Vitalicio +6:40. **Selected:** 25 J Ullrich (Ger) Telekom +8:57; 53 M Sciandri (GB) Française des Jeux +24:17.

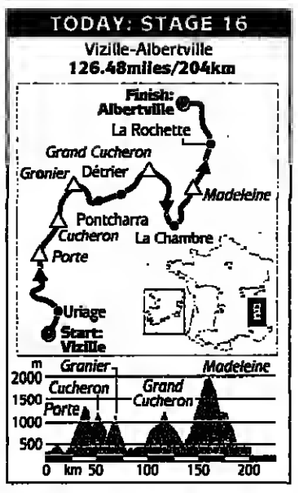
Overall standings: 1 M Pantani (It) Mercatone Uno 71hr 58min 37sec; 2 B Julich (US) Cofidis +3mm 53sec; 3 F Escartin (Sp) Kelme +4:14; 4 J Ullrich (Ger) Telekom +5:56; 5 C Rinero (Fr) Cofidis +6:12; 6 M Boogerd (Neth) Rabobank +6:16; 7 R Massi (It) Casino +7:53; 8 L Leblanc (Fr) Polti +8:01; 9 R Meier (Swit) Cofidis +8:57; 10 O Nardello (It) Mapei +9:14; 11 A Casero (Sp) Vitalicio +9:32; 12 M Beltran (Sp) Banesto +9:58; 13 B Hamburger (Den) Casino +10:16; 14 O Baranowski (Pol) US Postal +10:34; 15 J-C Robin (Fr) US Postal +10:45.

■ In the latest chapter of the doping scandal overshadowing the Tour, Cees Priem, the TVM team sporting director, and Andrei Mikhailov, the team doctor, were expected in Rheims last night for an appearance before an examining magistrate likely to place them under investigation for allegedly organising the use of the banned blood-enhancing drug, eythropoietin (EPO), within the team.

YESTERDAY: STAGE 15
Grenoble-Les Deux-Alpes
117.4miles/189km



TODAY: STAGE 16
Vizille-Albertville
126.48miles/204km



Bullimore plans world record attempt

SAILING

By Stuart Alexander

TONY BULLIMORE is planning a return to big time ocean racing. The man dramatically rescued from his capsized yacht just over 18 months ago by the Australian Navy is hoping to rejoin battle in the same waters in a world record attempt.

The Birmingham and Bristol-based businessman flew back from Florida yesterday hoping to buy from Royal & Sun Alliance the 92ft catamaran in which Tracy Edwards failed to set a new, non-stop round the world record after being dismasted earlier this year.

Edwards has this week announced she is seeking a massive £10m to field an all-woman entry in the French-organised The Race, starting 31 December 2000, in a 120ft Nigel Irens-designed catamaran. She had an option to buy the cat, in which Sir Peter Blake and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston set the world record in 1994 when it was Enza.

Bullimore startled the world when pictures of him swimming from underneath his upturned yacht, Exide Challenger, in which he had been trapped for five days, were beamed around the world. His 60ft monohull capized when the keel broke off, 1200 miles from the south-west corner of Australia. His rescue and return to Perth were a textbook naval operation.

Bullimore had hoped to compete in the Around Alone race from Charleston this September. Instead, he would use the giant catamaran to try and break the 71-day record set by Frenchman Olivier de Kersauson last year.

The two English teams among nine competing for the Rolex Commodores' Cup in two short races on the Solent yesterday were having a hard time, anchoring themselves more firmly in fifth and eighth overall as the Germans and Dutch fought for the major prizes.

Congratulations were sent by Mike Golding from Group 4 to Giovanni Soldini when he took his Open 60 across the finish line in Charleston overnight to win the Atlantic Alone race from Falmouth.

TODAY'S NUMBER

15

The number of different nationalities in the Newcastle United football team squad if manager Kenny Dalglish signs Peru's Nolberto Solano

IOC calls conference on drugs as Mitchell faces suspension

DRUGS IN SPORT

TWO OF the biggest names in American athletics were suspended as a result of drug tests yesterday, as the International Olympic Committee called a special conference to seek a definition of what constitutes doping.

The IOC's decision followed the publication of comments by its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, that appeared to indicate he was softening his stance on drug abuse in sport.

The shot putter Randy Barnes and the sprinter Dennis Mitchell have been suspended pending the analysis of the B samples of urine they provided in tests on 1 April. The International Amateur Athletic Federation's spokesman, Giorgio Reneiri, said Barnes and Mitchell had undergone out-of-competition tests.

Barnes, the 1996 Olympic champion who has been suspended before for drug use, is the world indoor and outdoor record-holder. He faces a life ban if traces of androstenedione also show up in the second test of his current sample. Mitchell, the 1992 Olympic bronze medallist in the 100 meters, has no previous offences and could be banned for two years if his B sample also contains a high level of testosterone.

A drug ban would be an embarrassment for Mitchell as he is president of the American track and field athletes' advisory committee, which has taken a hard line against drugs.

At the weekend, a Spanish newspaper, *El Mundo*, quoted Samaranch as saying the list of banned substances should be "drastically" reduced and drugs which do not damage an athlete's health should not be prohibited. The comments brought a barrage of criticism from those intent on ridding their sport of what they regard as a form of cheating that poses a threat to an athlete's health.

The British Olympic Association's chief executive, Simon Clegg, said the comments were "harmful" and went against the BOA's policy.

Steve Ovett, the 1980 Olympic 800m champion, said the remarks indicated Samaranch wanted to "throw in the towel" in the fight against drug cheats. "I think he is saying that they can't control it, which is a shame," he said.

Among the few to support Samaranch's apparent new approach were the directors of Spain's two leading cycling teams. Eusebio Unzue, the Banesto team director, said he agreed entirely with Saramanch, a sentiment echoed by the ONCE director, Manolo Saiz. Unzue said: "It's very important because our sport needs to recapture its long-held good image. His comments are extremely important and we have to take advantage of them."

The IOC's initiative comes as a doping scandal continues to dog the Tour de France, with cyclists and team officials implicated in widespread use of EPO (erythropoetin), which boosts the production of red blood cells, and other illegal drugs.

The IOC said yesterday that Samaranch's statement was "fully in line with the ongoing work of the IOC and its medical commission, aimed at checking and updating the list of prohibited substances."

It said Samaranch was referring to codeine, which was recently removed from the banned list. Reacting to suggestions that Samaranch was taking a softer line on drugs, the statement said the "IOC's determination was greater than ever."

Jacques Rogge, an IOC executive committee member and vice president of the IOC medical commission, said he wondered whether he had been misunderstood or misquoted.

Primo Nebiolo, the president of the IAAF, supported the IOC's call for a world doping conference. "The problem of doping affects the whole of the sports movement and now needs to be resolved quickly and effectively after years of indecision and ineffectual decisions," he said.

■ Lawyers acting for Diane Modahl, who is seeking £800,000 damages from the British Athletic Federation following her successful appeal against a doping ban, met administrators representing the now-bankrupt Federation yesterday. Administrator, Ron Speight, who had been seeking "an area of negotiation" regarding an out of court settlement, described it as "a positive meeting" and will report to creditors tomorrow.

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United's bid for Yorke rejected

FOOTBALL

BY DERRICK WHYTE

THE PACE quickened in the Dwight Yorke transfer race yesterday with Manchester United opening negotiations for the striker valued at £16m by Aston Villa and then being promptly rejected.

The rumour mill has been busy for the past week with talk of United's desire to sign Yorke for £7m plus one of Andy Cole, Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. Now it seems Saturday's Champions' League transfer deadline has forced United's hand.

Maurice Watkins, the United director and solicitor, refused to confirm that United had made an official bid, but would admit that there have been "initial discussions between the two clubs".

However, John Gregory, the Villa manager, quickly dampened hopes of a quick deal. "The offer for Yorke is completely inappropriate bearing in mind that we don't want to sell him anyway," he said.

"We have agreed no deal with Manchester United regarding Dwight Yorke and to suggest we have agreed something regarding Solskjaer is absolute rubbish."

Now that the first shots have been fired, all Yorke, who has scored 56 goals in the last three seasons, can do is wait. "For the last few days everyone I have met has asked me whether I am staying or going and the answer is that I haven't got a clue," the 26-year-old Trinidad and Tobago international said. "The matter is being dealt with at boardroom level, so I really do not know what is happening."

Gregory has offered Yorke £30,000 a week to stay, but the player has delayed signing a new contract. "Villa have offered me an excellent contract," Yorke said. "However, I have agreed nothing at this stage. If Villa did not agree a transfer fee with United, I would be happy to continue with my total commitment to Villa."

Whatever eventually transpires, Gregory insisted that he was under no pressure to offload Yorke – signed nearly a decade ago by Graham Taylor for just £100,000 – and make a financial killing.

"I will not pass the buck or hide behind a board decision," Gregory said. "If I dig in and want to turn down £16m then I will do it. If I don't want Dwight Yorke to go then he won't. I have got to do what is right for the team, supporters and myself."

Jesper Blomqvist, a prospective team-mate of Yorke's, will not have endeared himself to Old Trafford by revealing his £4.5m transfer from Parma was against his wishes.

"I didn't want to go to Manchester, because I liked it at Parma. But Parma's coach decided he couldn't fit me into his new system," Blomqvist said.

Newcastle United are close to signing the 23-year-old Peruvian winger Nolberto Solano for £2.5m from the Argentinian club Boca Juniors. Kenny Dalglish, whose spending has passed £14m this summer, has only just completed the £5.25m acquisition of Dietmar Hamann from Bayern Munich.

However, the Newcastle manager has lost patience with the defender Markus Babbel – Hamann's Bayern and Germany team-mate – after numerous attempts to agree terms on a £5m transfer.

Newcastle's England midfielder, David Batty, who is suspended for the opening six games of the Premiership season, has had an operation on a troublesome Achilles tendon.

Frenchman Olivier Dacourt has completed his £4m move from Strasbourg to Everton, despite a late hitch after the midfielder needed a second medical. The 23-year-old Dacourt is manager Walter Smith's second signing following the £2.5m purchase of the Italian defender Marco Materazzi. Another impending arrival is the Scottish midfielder John Collins from Monaco for £2.5m.

Coventry are hoping to sign Robert Jarni, the Croatian World Cup defender who plays for Real Betis, in the next 48 hours.

Sanchez Vicario's scream of victory

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario shouts for joy as Spain defeat the United States 3-2 in the semi-finals of the Fed Cup in Madrid. With Conchita Martinez, the pair beat Mary Joe Fernandez and Lisa Raymond in the final doubles, which finished in the early hours yesterday AP

Stubbs and Larsson return to fitness

CELTIC YESTERDAY received a boost before tomorrow's Champions' League qualifying return against St Patrick's in Dublin. Their defender Alan Stubbs and Swedish striker Henrik Larsson have both shaken off niggling injuries and are likely to start the match at Tolka Park.

The French full-back Stéphane Mahe will also travel with the squad to Ireland this morning with every chance of playing his part in securing the win Celtic need to advance in the competition.

In the absence of Marc Rieper, who will need at least a week to recover from the back spasms which forced him off in the 0-0 first leg, Stubbs' presence will be vital at the heart of Celtic's defence.

The Celtic physiotherapist, Brian Scott, yesterday confirmed that the ankle knock which forced the Englishman off at half-time in Saturday's 2-1 friendly win over Spurs would not prevent his participation in Dublin. He also revealed that Larsson has already resumed full training and was "fairly confident" both the Swedish player and Mahe would be ready for action.

There was also better news concerning the Danish midfielder Morten Wieghorst, who will not now require further surgery on the knee ligament damage he suffered in Ray Montgomerie's testimonial match at Kilmarnock 10 days ago.

Phil O'Donnell and David Hannah will both miss out tomorrow, but are expected to resume full training before the champions' opening match in the defence of their title against Dunfermline on Saturday.

The Celtic captain, Tommy Boyd, yesterday insisted that whatever the make-up of the 11 who start against St Patrick's, the casualty list will not excuse any failure to overcome the Irish threat on Wednesday.

He said: "They are all vital members of the squad and would probably play if they were fit. But that is why we have a big squad here and the players who come in are well capable of doing the job required."

Craig Burley also believes the resilience shown at key moments during last year's successful campaign will see them through.

He added: "One of the most pleasing aspects of last season was the way in which we were able to recover from setbacks quickly, especially after losing our first two League games. I'd like to think we'd retain that quality this time and I'm not worried about anything that's happened in the last week. We are not despondent after the first game and the atmosphere in the camp has been relaxed."

Lemerre succeeds Jacquet as France coach

Lemerre: 'Perilous job'

THE FRENCH football federation yesterday appointed Roger Lemerre to succeed Aimé Jacquet as coach of the world champions.

The 57-year-old Lemerre, Jacquet's assistant since last January, was formally appointed at the FFF's Paris headquarters.

A former coach of Lens who has been on the FFF coaching staff for 12 years, Lemerre was chosen in preference to the Monaco coach, Jean Tigana, and Auxerre's Guy Roux, whose clubs refused to release them. He has been given a two-year contract.

"It's certainly a prestigious job but above all a perilous one," Lemerre said.

"Our performance in the World Cup campaign will mean greater demands are made on us to remain among the élite. On the field, it will be hard to do better and to do as well will not be easy."

Lemerre recognised that he was similar to Jacquet in manner and ideas – quiet, hard-working and well-liked by the squad. "There's a French school of football to which I belong, of which I'm proud," he told a news conference at FFF headquarters.

Lemerre takes over the job of helping Les Bleus build on their 3-0 World Cup final victory over Brazil on Jacquet's personal recommendation.

His first game in charge will be a friendly against Austria on 19 August before the serious business of qualifying for Euro 2000 gets under way with a match against Iceland in Reykjavik on 5 September. Jacquet will still be involved after taking on the role of director of coaching, replacing Gerald Houllier, who has moved to Liverpool as joint coach alongside Roy Evans.

Tigana, long regarded as first choice by the French footballing establishment after taking Monaco to the 1997 league title, is under contract with the club until next year and the president, Jean-Louis Campora, insisted he would not allow that contract to be broken.

At club level Lemerre began his coaching career with Red Star, currently in the French Second Division, and helped the recently crowned French champions Lens win promotion to the First Division in 1978.

Amateur champion makes quick exit

GOLF

CRAIG HUMPHREY, a little known Hampshire county player, produced a major upset at the English Amateur Championship yesterday, as he knocked out the title holder, Aran Wainwright, in the first round at Woodhall Spa.

Humphrey, from Basingstoke, combines his golf with a full-time job for an electronics firm and has no ambitions to turn professional. He lost the first hole against Wainwright, the 22-year-old England international from Garforth in Yorkshire, but quickly established control and was two up after five.

Wainwright fought back to square the match at the eighth but Humphrey made his move around the turn and a three-hole cushion after 12 holes proved just enough.

The defending champion made a valiant effort by taking the 14th and 15th holes but 20-year-old Humphrey was not to be denied and closed out the match 2 and 1 at the 17th green.

Of the other seeds in early first-round action, the most impressive Mark Hilton of Sussex, a semi-finalist in the Amateur Championship at Muirfield. Hilton swept past Kelvin Mercer 6 and 5 but fellow seeds Luke Donald, David Griffiths and Chris Rodgers were all taken to the final hole before securing victories.

Ryan Fenwick from Bognor Regis produced the shot of the day with a hole in one at the 12th – his second ace of the year – on his way to a one-hole win over Stuart Davis.

Simon Robinson, the Seaton Carew teenager who will make his England Boys debut in next week's home internationals at St Andrews, needed just 11 holes to defeat David Wixon.

At the other end of the age scale, 43-year-old Charlie Banks made progress with a 4 and 2 victory over Russell Binney.

At the J&B Scottish Amateur Championship at Prestwick, Royal and Ancient official Duncan Weir failed to recreate his administrative success on the course when he fell at the first hurdle. The Assistant Championship Secretary was responsible for the smooth running of the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale a fortnight ago, but found his own golf slightly lacking on the Ayrshire links.

The Lundin member was two up after two holes but proceeded to lose five holes on the trot to Downfield member Lindsay Wood before eventually going down 3 and 2.

"After that bad spell I recovered a bit and I thought I might have a chance when I got back to only one down with five to play," Duncan said.

"But Lindsay birdied the 14th and 16th and that was that. I played OK but was just not sharp enough around the greens and that's where it told."

There was better news in the early stages for the former amateur champion Craig Watson who came through his first assignment against Nairn's Alister Asher by 3 and 2. Watson slumped two down in the early stages, but turned it around by the eighth hole and was never behind again.

SPORTING DIGEST

Gaudio has the power for Sheffield

BASKETBALL

SHEFFIELD SHARKS have added some power to their front line by signing the former Stefanel Milan ace Matt Gaudio.

The 6ft 8in, 17st Gaudio will give much-needed strength to the low post, where the uni-ball Trophy champions are trying to replace John Amaechi.

Before turning professional, Gaudio was selected for the All Big Ten Conference team at Penn State, where he was a team-mate of Amaechi's.

"He will give us additional muscle inside and will fit nicely alongside our existing front-court players, Todd Cauthorn and Wil Johnson," coach Chris Finch said.

Gaudio is returning from a serious knee injury which prevented him from playing last season. "When I visited [Sheffield] in May, I really liked the feel I got and thought it was the perfect opportunity for me to start playing again. I'm eager for a great season," he said.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 6 Toronto 3; Detroit 8 Cleveland 1; Seattle 10 Baltimore 4; New York Yankees 6 Chicago White Sox 3; Tampa Bay 3 Oakland 1; Kansas City 9 Anaheim 4; Minnesota 11 Texas 3.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EASTERN DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
NY Yankees	73	26	.737	–
Boston	60	43	.583	15
Baltimore	52	53	.495	24
Toronto	52	54	.491	24½
Tampa Bay	40	62	.392	34½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Cleveland	59	45	.567	–
Minnesota	48	55	.466	10½
Kansas City	46	57	.447	12½
Ch White Sox	45	59	.433	14
Detroit	44	59	.427	14½
WESTERN DIVISION				
Anaheim	56	47	.544	–
Texas	56	48	.538	½
Seattle	48	56	.462	8½
Oakland	46	57	.447	10

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 10 Florida 9; Atlanta 2 Pittsburgh 1; Milwaukee 6 Montreal 5; Chicago Cubs 3 New York Mets 1, San Diego 5 Houston 4 (10 innings); San Francisco 2 Cincinnati 1 (10 innings); St Louis 3 Colorado 1; Los Angeles 5 Arizona 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EASTERN DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	69	36	.657	–
New York Mets	54	48	.529	13½
Philadelphia	54	49	.524	14
Montreal	40	65	.581	29
Florida	38	67	.362	31
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Houston	61	43	.587	–
Chicago Cubs	59	46	.562	2½
Milwaukee	53	52	.505	8½
St Louis	49	55	.471	12
Cincinnati	46	59	.438	15½
WESTERN DIVISION				
San Diego	69	36	.657	–
San Francisco	56	49	.533	13
Los Angeles	54	51	.514	15
Colorado	46	59	.438	23
Arizona	37	67	.356	31½

BOWLS

GREENALLS WATERLOO (Blackpool): Second round: H Stamp (Formby) bt O Telforth (Lytham) 21-13; G Stamp (Willaston) bt M Tickle (Broughton) 21-18; A Hill (West Kirby) bt P Finnie (Keighley) 21-16; E Williams (Warrington) bt D Harrison (Burnley) 21-9; G Bowden (Keighley) bt A Beard (Wigan) 21-14; L Wells (Warrington) bt G Foster (Keighley) 21-11; B Welsby (Warrington) bt G Whittaker (Keighley) 21-14; S Gaskell (Leigh) bt R Bowden (Keighley) 21-18; K Wordley (Keighley) bt R Foster (Keighley) 21-18; G Ellis (Whitefield) bt E Webster (St Helens) 21-6; N Hargreaves (Keighley) bt J Wilson (Birkenhead) 21-11; D Stamp (Formby) bt K Nicholas (Wrexham) 21-18.

BOXING

Mark Johnson of America retained his International Boxing Federation flyweight title yesterday with a unanimous points decision over Luis Rolon of Puerto Rico in Oneida, New York.

CYCLING

BCF NATIONAL TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS (Manchester): 4,000m team pursuit: Final: Team Brite (B Steel, R Hayles, M Illingworth, J Clay) 4min 7.75sec (British record) caught Harrods-Giant (R Wood, J Hargreaves, J Clarke, S Jones) in 2:32.017. **3rd place ride-off:** City of Edinburgh RC caught Cleveland Wheelers in 2:08.869. **Open keirin final:** 1 C Percival (Team Brite) last 200m in 11.586sec; 2 R Darley (Brixton Cycles); 3 R Kennedy (Chesterfield Couteurs).

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Women's 15km scratch: 1 M Szubrycht (Universal CC) 20:38.326 (championship record); 2 S Boyden (Clarke Contracts RT); 3 A Hunter (Team Ambrosia). **Junior 3,000m pursuit (qualifying time trial):** 1 B Wiggins (Team Brite) 3:25.893; 2 M Kelly (Manx RC) 3:35.137; 3 B Hallam (Team Brite) 3:35.968. **Semi-finals:** M Kelly (Manx RC) 3.35.897 bt B Hallam (Team Brite) 3:36.339; B Wiggins (Team Brite) caught S Collins (3Com RT) 2:56.585. **Final:** B Wiggins (Team Brite) 3:26.406 caught M Kelly (Manx RC) 3:25.717; **3rd place:** S Collins (3Com RT) 3:36.537 bt B Hallam (Team Brite) 3:38.570.

DARTS

PDC WORLD MATCHPLAY (Blackpool): First round: R Harrington (Eng) bt K Spotek (Eng) 6-4; G Mawson (Can) bt P Lim (US) 9-7; B Anderson (Eng) bt C Lazarenko 8-2 (Eng).

EQUESTRIANISM

PONY EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (La Touquet, Fr): Individual: 1 The Queen (E Hulteberg, Swe) clear in jump-off; 2 Colton Maelstrom (S Pharo, GB) 8 faults; 3 Cornelli Bravo (R Whitaker, GB) 9 faults. **Team:** 1 Great Britain 4 faults; 2 Belgium 8; 3 Sweden 11.5. **GB scores:** P J Grease Lightening (A Moore) 0.10; Cornelli Bravo (R Whitaker) 0.4; Colton Maelstrom (S Pharo) 0.0; Dusty Boy (B Maher) 0.0.

FOOTBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Miami Fusion 2 New England Revolution 1, Los Angeles Galaxy 0 D.C. United 1; New York/New Jersey MetroStars 3 Chicago Fire 2; Colorado Rapids 3 Tampa Bay Mutiny 2; Dallas Burn 2 Columbus Crew 1; San Jose Clash 2 Kansas City Wizards 1.

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULT: European U-18 Championship (Larnaca, Cyprus): Germany 1 Republic of Ireland 1 (A Quinn) (Ireland won 4-3 on penalties).

GOLF

ENGLISH AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Woodhall Spa) First round: J Doherty (Worthing) bt D MacKinnon (Fairhaven) 6 and 4; R Bladh (Wanstead) w/o N Connell (West Herts) scr; J Dickinson (Saffron Walden) bt P Wheatcroft (Worksop) 3 and 2; J Little (Moor Park) bt R Fisher (Hainault Forest) 3 and 1; L Donald (Beaconsfield) bt D Kitteridge (Great Hadham) 1 hole; J Elson (Kenilworth) w/o A Johnson (Caldy) scr; A White (Pleasington) w/o N Richardson (Wentworth) scr; S East (Filey) bt S Nightingale (Worthing) 3 and 1; O Errington (Arcot Hall) bt O Norman (Stoke Poges) 3 and 2; J Barber (Broome Manor) bt R Dobson (Wallsend) at 19th; D Spencer (Carnwick Park) bt J Morgan (Clevedon) 3 and 2; M Prue (Hillside) bt P Bradshaw (Holme Hall) 1 hole; A Jones (Sutton Coldfield) bt P Gordon (Olton) 4 and 3; D Griffiths (West Herts) bt B Smith (Theydon Bois) 2 holes; S Robinson (Seaton Carew) bt D Wixon (Enmore Park) 8 and 7; G Boden (Bridgenorth) bt t Watkins (Warmley) 2 and 1; M Side (Shirley Park) bt J York (West Herts) 1 hole; K Johnson (Frilford Heath) bt D Dixon (Enmore Park) 2 and 1; M King (Toft Hotel) bt A Smith (Highwoods) 5 and 4; O Wilson (Coxmoor) bt J Coleman (West Cornwall) 4 and 2; J Conteh (Moor Park) bt D Vanstone (Royal North Devon) 4 and 3; C Rodgers (Royal Mid Surrey) bt K Cademy-Taylor (Newcastle Utd) 1 hole; B Case (Sandford Springs) bt S Godfrey (St Enodoc) 2 holes; F Bibby (Wilmslow) bt S Stanley (South Winchester) at 21st; J Phillips (Walmley) w/o M Dunsford (Leatherhead) scr; D Hastings (Old Fold Manor) bt O Greenfield (Tyneside) 6 and 4; N Ridewood (Orsett) bt S Chapman (St Enodoc) 3 and 1; G Harris (Reading) bt J Hemphill (Walmley) 5 and 3; O Cousins (Gog Magog) bt J Mortimer (Ellesborough) 3 and 2; T Whitehousem (Maxstone Park) bt P Appleyard (Chart Hills) 3 and 2; M Hilton (East Sussex National) bt K Mercer (Hawkstone Park) 6 and 5; P O'Donnell (Sand Moor) bt D Kirton (Worksop) at 19th; C Humphrey (Basingstoke) bt A Wainwright (Garforth) 2 and 1; N Soto (Northants County) bt A Woodward (Orsett) 2 and 1; A Carey (Walmley) bt D Clark (Richmond) 1 hole; R Latham (Porters Park) bt I Pomaby (Durham City) 6 and 5; J Murphy (Chorton Cum Hardy) bt J Herbert (Hinckley) 3 and 2; R Fenwick (Bognor Regis) bt S Davis (Redleston Park) 1 hole; M Ringrose (Ely City) w/o N Williams (North Wilts) scr; C Banks (Scarton on the Wolds) bt R Binney (Trevose) 4 and 2; R Ramskill (La Moye) bt R Beadles (Brampton Park) 2 and 1; K Freeman (Stoke Poges) bt T Armitage (Hallamshire) 2 and 1; B Taylor (Thorpe Hall) bt P Jones (Canford Magna) 5 and 3; A White (St Andrew's New) w/o B Taylor (Sherdley Park) scr; C Hudson (The Army) bt M Briggs (Stoke Poges) 1 hole; T Mackwick (Corhampton) bt P Kenyon (Hillside) 3 and 1; F Kelley (Ganton) bt R Pimlott (Bramall Park) 3 and 1; G Legg (Dudsbury) bt G Evans (Ealing) 3 and 1; M Booker (Royal Mid Surrey) bt O Johnson (Saunton) 3 and 2; J Cockcroft (Nelson) w/o C Manson (Sunningdale) scr; J Wormald (Kingswood) bt E Burlison-Rush (East Sussex National) 5 and 4; N Tidder (Romford) bt S Youngs (Worksop) 5 and 3; G Storm (Wynyard) bt N Bennett (Kidderminster) 3 and 2.

J & B SCOTTISH AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Prestwick) First round: T McInally (Loudoun Gowf) bt G Gordon (Newmacher) 1 hole; L Wood (Downfield) bt D Weir (Lundin) 3 and 2; C Watson (East Renfrewshire) bt A Asher (Nairn) 3 and 2; F McCarron (Stonehaven) bt H Thompson (Irvine) 3 and 2; T McLevy (Blairgowrie) w/o K Hird (Murcar); H MacDonald (Old Ranfurly) bt A Thomson (Drumpellier) 3 and 2; C Mitchell (Blairgowrie) w/o D Ewen (Uphall); G Thomson (Uphook) bt R Napier (Dunnikier Park) 3 and 2; S Carmichael (Cardross) w/o C Gordon (Ratho Park).

SAILING

In a gusty and shifty offshore wind tanging from force 1 to force 4, places in the top six of the second race of the International 14 European Championships chopped and changed frequently through the race with Charles Stanley and Mo Gray emerging victorious.

INTERNATIONAL 14 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Mosey's Bay Sailing Club) Race 2: 1 C Stanley and M Gray (GB); 2 A Fitzgerald and A Murphy (GB), 3 R Bridge and J Eplett (GB); 4 I Teasdale and N Keast (GB); 5 R Pascal and M Pascal (GB); 6 J Hartley and I Tillett (GB).

ROLEX COMMODORES' CUP, (Cowes) Race 6: Class A: 1 S Dierdorp (Neth) Reckless; 2 N Plambeck (Ger) Hexe; 3 K Brunefiod (Scand) Hurrycane 3; S A de Mulder (England Red) Victric 5; 8 R Goddard (England Green) Autrodesk. **Class B:** 1 H Welding (Ger) Xenia; 2 T Jungblut (Ger) Sequana; 3 H Hout (Neth) Salty Dog; 6 O Strugstad (England Green) Dawn Raid; 8 P Rutter (England Red) Quokka. **Class C:** 1 J-L Ribed (Sp) Bilbao Congress City; 2 P Plaate (Bel) General Tapioca; 3 J Scholten (Neth) Dehler 29; 8 A Cox (England Red) Prospect of Whitby. **D:** D Murrin (England Green) Cetawayo. **Race 7: Class A:** 1 W Schafer (Ger) Strunde Light; 2 S Dierdorp; 3 P de Ridder (Neth) Checkmate; 6 A de Mulder (England Red); 7 R Goddard (England Green). **Class B:** 1 T Jungblut; 2 H Hout; 3 H Welding; 4 P Rutter (England Red); S O Strugstad (England Green). **Class C:** 1 J-P Ribed; 2 H Bruning (Ger) Topas; 3 K Jansen (Neth) Cisne; 4 A Cox (England Red); 9 D Murrin (England Green). **Overall (after seven races):** 1 Germany Red 37.5pts; 2 Netherlands Green 50.5; 3 Netherlands Red 52; 4 Germany Green 62.25; 5 England Red 71; 8 Spain 90.25; 7 Scandinavia 97.25; 8 England Green 108.5; 9 Belgium 111

SPEEDWAY

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULT: Premier League: Glasgow 51 Stoke 38.

SQUASH

WORLD UNIVERSITY TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Cardiff) Final: France 2 Great Britain 1 (French names first, C Boglio lost to J Tranfield 1-9 0-9 0-9, T Lincou bt G Tippings 10-8 9-3 9-6, J-M Arcucci bt P Tranfield 2-9 6-9 9-6 9-0 9-6).

TENNIS

Andre Agassi needed just 50 minutes to claim his third title of the season yesterday when he outplayed Scott Draper, of Australia, 6-2 6-0 in the final of the ATP Tour event in Washington. Agassi's 37th career victory was a near repeat of his semi-final success when he crushed Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, 6-1 6-0.

Tim Henman has dropped one place from 11 to 12 in the latest ATP world rankings, but Greg Rusedski remains at No 6. Henman went to a career-high 11 last week because Karol Kucera, of the Slovak Republic, had lost a large number of points. But Kucera reached the final of the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart on Sunday and has gone back ahead of the British No 2. Chris Wilkinson, the British No 3 from Southampton, has moved up four places from 133 to 129.

LEADING ATP RANKINGS: 1 P Sampras (US) 3,825pts, 2 M Pios (Chile) 3,719; 3 P Korda (Cz Rep) 3,195; 4 C Moya (Sp) 3,025; 5 P Rafter (Aus) 2,878; 6 G Rusedski (GB) 2,706; 7 Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 2,601; 8 J Bjorkman (Swe) 2,581; 9 R Krajicek (Neth) 2,399; 10 A Corretja (Sp) 2,302; 11 K Kucera (Slovak) 2,115; 12 T Henman (GB) 2,088; 13 A Agassi (US) 2,052; 14 A Costa (Sp) 1,976, 15 A Berasategui (Sp) 1,900; 16 M Chang (US) 1,849; 17 G Ivanisevic (Croa) 1,848; 18 T Enqvist (Swe) 1,791.

GENERALI OPEN (Kitzbühel, Aut) Men's singles, first round: R Schuetter (Ger) bt B Bacheri (Ger) 6-4 7-6; C Vinck (Ger) bt M Craca (Ger) 6-1 7-5; H Dreekmann (Ger) bt E Alvarez (Sp) 6-4 6-3; W Schranz (Aut) bt J A Viloca (Sp) 6-7 6-1 6-1; F Vicente (Sp) bt M Sinner (Ger) 6-1 7-5; L Arnold (Arg) bt O Gross (Ger) 3-6 6-4 6-3; R Vasek (Cz Rep) bt A Portas (Sp) 7-5 1-6 6-2; S Grosjean (Fr) bt P Tramacchi (Aus) 6-4 7-6.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

FRIENDLY MATCHES (7.30 unless stated): Aldershot Town v Yeovil (7.45); Baldock v Bishop's Stortford; Brentford v QPR (7.45); Bristol Rovers v West Ham (7.45); Dagenham & Redbridge v Dover; Farnborough v Reading (7.45), Hampton v Crawley Town (7.45); Hereford v Bristol City (7.45), Hull v Luton; Kettering v Tottenham XI; Morecambe v Burnley (7.45); Northwich v Crewe; Peterborough v Birmingham (7.45); Shildon v Darlington (7.00); Worcester v Leicester; Worthing v Brighton; Wycombe v Aston Villa (7.45); Cambridge v Ipswich (7.45); Carshalton v Woking; Fisher v Millwall (at Surrey Dock Stadium); Blackpool v Tranmere, Sutton Utd v Wimbledon; Grays v Southend; Stamford v Cambridge City (7.45); Lincoln City v Grimsby (7.45).

OTHER SPORTS

GOLF: English Amateur Championship (Woodhall Spa).

SPORT

PANTANI TAKES YELLOW JERSEY P26 ● BLEAK OUTLOOK FOR BLACK P26

Fourth Test: Captains past and present earn England the chance of their first five-match series victory in 12 years

Atherton wins test of nerves

BY DEREK PRINGLE
at Trent Bridge

South Africa 374 & 208
England 336 & 247-2
England win by 8 wickets

IT TOOK a concerted team effort, as well as one or two heroic individual performances, for England to take their first bow in the summer spotlight. Underpinned by a superlative unbeaten 98 from Michael Atherton, and hastened by a blistering cameo from Alec Stewart, England beat South Africa by eight wickets in the Fourth Test here yesterday to level the series at 1-1.

For once the curtain call was richly deserved and Trent Bridge was awash with more than 12,000 cheering spectators, the largest crowd for the final day of a home Test since 1991, when England beat the West Indies at the Oval.

A Test match win, particularly one that is so emphatic, can seldom have been more important for English cricket. Largely forgotten due to rival attractions earlier in the summer such as the World Cup, Wimbledon and the Open, cricket needed to stand up and be counted. At Trent Bridge it not only did that but walked tall, the last five days providing a thrilling Test match that has breathed life into a series now level at 1-1 and due to be concluded at Headingley in 10 days' time.

After the torrid and base personal duels of the previous evening, yesterday – aside from the vital need for an England victory – proved something of an anti-climax, with England appearing to stroll home.

Winning margins can prove deceptive and if the fascinating close-ups had largely been played out, the broader picture still had to be completed. It needed more resolute batting to prevent South Africa from sniffing any faint possibilities.

Beating South Africa is never an easy business for they would rather fall than roll over. Armed with Allan Donald, the finest new ball bowler in the world, and with few real slouches at the other end, it is their opponents who normally buckle when the tension mounts.

Fortunately England held firm and set about their task with determination and calculated efficiency. Inevitably whenever such conditions prevail it is Atherton who soaks them up, though both Nasser Hussain, with whom he shared a 152-run partnership, and Stewart, played their part.

Trent Bridge has become something of a personal mecca for Atherton, who has amassed 362 runs here in nine Tests at an average of 61. Yesterday he spurned the chance of a 13th Test century, allowing Stewart to continue an extraordinary hitting spree that saw 45 runs come from 34 balls, nine of them boundaries.

"When I came in there was still 50 odd to get, so I was determined to hit the ball," Stewart said. "Having middled a few I got on a roll, though I did offer Athers his hundred. It would have been nice for him to get there, but he just said 'win the game'."

Summing up Atherton's contribution the England captain, enjoying his first win in charge, had nothing but compliments for his predecessor. "He played superbly well. Although he's been written off in the past he's come through his bad patches. His battles with Allan Donald were what Test cricket is all about. It was a real big contest, with a quality quick against a quality opening batsman."

Clearly peeved about the criticism he had received after putting South Africa in to bat, Stewart was adamant it was the right decision. If it was, he and his team owe a great debt to Angus Fraser, whose relentless professionalism and unerring accuracy got his team back into this match, particularly with his 5-62 in the second innings.

"He's a quality bowler and he fully deserved to be man of the match," Stewart said. "He's missed a lot of Test cricket with a hip injury, but in the last 12 months he's been exceptional. He was our best bowler in the West Indies and he was our best bowler here."

Alec Stewart holds out a congratulatory hand to Mike Atherton as they complete the winning run yesterday *David Ashdown*

If Stewart could not prevent the odd quaver of emotion from creeping into his voice, Atherton was his usual matter-of-fact self.

Apart from admitting he had gone out and had a few beers on Sunday night (he apparently did not want to place undue emphasis on the importance of yesterday's play), his assessment of his marvellous knock was nothing more lyrical than a job done.

"I know that sounds a cold analysis but it's true," Atherton said, slaking his thirst with a cold bottle of beer. "As an opener, you are trying to lay the foundations for the innings. When you carry it through to victory it's the icing on the cake. It's just nice to play a match-winning innings."

Denied three winters ago by Atherton's monumental 185 in Johannesburg, South Africa are probably sick of the sight of him and this innings will rate as one of the finest of his career. Certainly the "incident" on Sunday evening, when Atherton survived a gloved catch off Donald, did little to improve South Africa's appreciation of it. Afterwards, Atherton confirmed that although much of Donald's cussing was conducted in Afrikaans, the fast bowler was the first to share a beer with him afterwards.

Following the sheer electricity generated by his efforts the previous day, and which Atherton and Hussain did well to survive, Donald knew something special would be needed to prevent England, only one wicket down, from scoring the 139 runs needed to win on the final day.

However, he did not want for motivation – both he and Shaun Pollock would have been given the option to take the last Test off had South Africa won here – he knew he was unlikely to match the speed and ferocity of Sunday evening. It was not for want of trying and only Stewart can be said to have tamed him, though by then the writing was on the wall, whatever your language of preference.

Donald's consolation, if such a thing is possible after so stupendous an effort, was to take the wicket of Hussain in the first over after lunch. Opening the day's account with a handsome cover drive for four, Hussain appeared happy tootling along in Atherton's slipstream. Criticised in the past for carelessness, the Essex vice-captain defended even more carefully than his partner. Indeed, only when victory was virtually certain did he indulge in a loose stroke. Unhappily for him it was the one that brought his downfall, though it needed a brilliant catch by Jacques Kallis, diving to his right at second slip, to end his stay.

At that juncture Captain Bold entered with his bat swishing as freely as a frisky stallion's tail. Opening his account with a swept four off Paul Adams, Stewart proceeded to take apart South Africa's tiring attack. In one over from Donald three boundaries were taken as the blood, sweat and tears of Atherton's gritty effort was almost usurped by something a lot flashier.

"Personally I think it was important to win in that way," said Atherton, who fittingly hit the winning runs when he on-drove Pollock for three. "It will give us a lift for Headingley."

For the sake of English cricket, which has not had a win in a five-match series for 12 years, let us hope he is right.

NatWest Trophy preview, page 23

TRENT BRIDGE SCOREBOARD

England won toss

SOUTH AFRICA – First Innings 374 (W J Cronje 126, S M Pollock 50, A R C Fraser 5-60, D Gough 4-116).

ENGLAND – First Innings 336 (M A Butcher 75, M R Ramprakash 67nc, M A Atherton 58; A A Donald 5-109)

SOUTH AFRICA – Second Innings 208 (W J Cronje 67, D J Cullinan 56, A R C Fraser 5-62, D G Cork 4-60).

ENGLAND – Second Innings
(Overnight: 108 for 1)
M A Butcher c Boucher b Pollock 22 *(67 min, 50 balls, 4 fours)*
M A Atherton not out .....98 *(356 min, 277 balls, 14 fours)*
N Hussain c Kallis b Donald .....58 *(243 min, 170 balls, 5 fours)*
*†A J Stewart not out .....45 *(44 min, 34 balls, 9 fours)*
Extras (b2 lb11 w2 nb9) 24
Total (for 2, 356 min, 87 overs) 247
Fall: 1-40 (Butcher) 2-192 (Hussain).
Bowling: Donald 23-8-56-1 (5-2-6-0, 8-3-11-0, 5-3-7-0, 5-0-32-1); **Pollock 26-3-79-1** (nb8 w1) (10-1-26-1, 9-1-30-0, 4-1-8-0, 3-0-15-0); **Adams 12-4-23-0** (4-1-6-0, 2-1-1-0, 2-0-6-0, 1-1-0-0, 3-1-10-0); **Kallis 13-5-26-0** (w1) (4-1-5-0, 8-3-21-0, 1-1-0-0); **Elworthy 9-1-38-0** (3-0-17-0, 6-1-21-0); **Cronje 4-1-12-0** (nb1) (one spell)

Progress: Fourth day: tea: 26-0 (Butcher 13, Atherton 7) 12 overs. **50:** 91 min, 22 4 overs. **100:** 158 min, 38.3 overs. **Close:** 108-1 (Atherton 43, Hussain 25) 45 overs. **Fifth day: 150:** 254 min, 61.2 overs. **Lunch:** 190-1 (Atherton 87, Hussain 57) 75 overs. **200:** 317 min, 77.3 overs. New ball taken after 81 overs at 221-2.

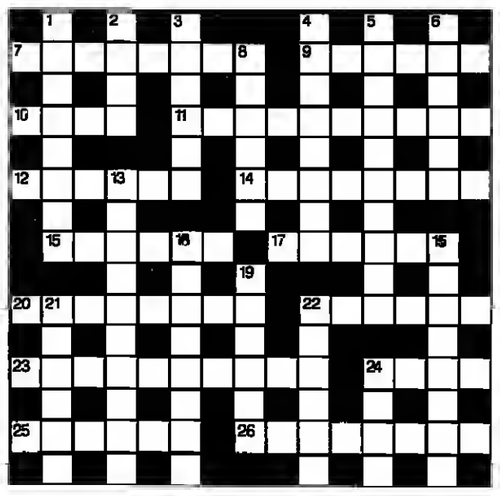
Atherton's 50: 199 min, 150 balls, 8 fours. **Hussain's 50:** 225 mins, 158 balls, 4 fours.

England won by eight wickets at 2.29pm

Man of the match: A R C Fraser.
Adjudicator: A R Lewis
Umpires: R S Dunne and M J Kitchen.
TV Replay Umpire: R Julian.
Match Referee: Ahmed Ebrahim.

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3674. Tuesday 28 July — By Aelred



Monday's Solution

ACROSS
7 A period in the US? (4,4)
9 Before getting wonderful this was a basic house (6)
10 A live daughter hut not yet active (4)
11 Pretty type of competent searcher (4-6)
12 It lists mistakes of traitor in time (6)
14 Diary pal edited is dealing with gemstones (8)
15 Emit cry of pain, being cowardly? (6)
17 Note judge discharge burden (6)
20 Common, plain hee flying round (8)
22 Conductor wants instrument to produce hard sound? (6)
23 String along with colourful French cooking, sort of? (6, 4)
24 With frequency lubricate aluminium? (4)
25 Arrived with artist having something to produce a picture (6)
26 Cover rejected by a conservative tending to delay (8)

DOWN
1 Bush growing in lumber over railway (8)
2 Overdo record walk (4)
3 Gist got wrong by mother leads to shame (6)
4 Order pudding? (5, 3)
5 Not good enough to help the groom? (6-4)
6 Nurse keeps English job? (6)
8 Former Brazilian footballer keeps work for men and women (6)
13 Clever chap about to perish? Not if this (4-6)
16 Easterner gives nothing to one in hire payment (8)
18 Very many move aimlessly with one on a road (8)
19 French article about boy being naked (6)
21 Potential of halo as something to ensure you're spotless (6)
22 Timeless bother of Russian currency (6)
24 Fellow consumed the lot? (4)

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Victory welded by contrasting styles

BY HENRY BLOFELD

THE FINAL partnership of a brilliant Test match, between Mike Atherton and Alec Stewart, made for an intriguing contrast. England's present captain and his immediate predecessor saw their side home with innings which spoke as loudly of their different styles as it did of their different characters.

Atherton had fought for six and a quarter hours as only he can when Stewart came in. He had chiselled 88 runs out of perhaps the best pair of fast bowlers in the world, he had won a ferocious duel with Allan Donald and he had made it as certain as he could, that this was not an opportunity England would waste.

His had been an innings in which the central thread had been his monumental powers of concentration. Yes, he probably had gloved that ball on Sunday evening which led to some good old dirty looks between him and Donald. There was nothing in the least unacceptable about any of it.

It was a red-blooded exchange between two passionate performers whose characters caused them to reveal that passion in different ways.

In the white heat of the moment, Donald bares his teeth and rages but, as his next few overs showed, he did not lose control of himself or the ball. Atherton glared back at him a little like a comic trying to look stern.

It was a minor irritation and he was not going to let it scratch the surface. His passion was dedicated only to victory. He concerned himself, not with the morals of not walking for that is old hat and no longer applied, but with the business of not getting out to the charged-up Donald – in which he was brilliantly successful.

When Stewart arrived, Atherton had taken his side much nearer to the ultimate goal of victory. He had scored runs when they were available, with skill and composure and without risk. He will not have been surprised by Stewart's familiar striding walk to the middle or the brisk, businesslike way he took guard and twiddled his bat.

He may have been concerned by Stewart's first stroke though, a sweep at Paul Adams, but it went out of the middle of the bat for four. He will have raised his eyebrows in surprise and enjoyment at his first pull over midwicket off Donald. He will have been startled and faintly shocked by the three fours in Donald's next over but admiring of his captain's spirit and he will never have given a thought to his own approaching hundred.

Since he resigned the captaincy, Atherton has had time to think about and work on his batting which he never had when he was in charge. His batting, like his captaincy, is a no-risks operation. So far as the batting is concerned, he has tailored his talents to his character and now the end product suits England to perfection.

It did not work with the captaincy for it is a job which cannot be a no-risks operation, and if it is allowed to become one, opportunities will be missed which they were when he had the job. Stewart's upbringing and apparent nature is also defensively inclined, but that extrovert stride to the wicket is the walk of a man whose true nature is to attack.

No man could bat as he did for 34 balls at the end of this match if his true nature had been to guard against the worst. He put South Africa in, he was roundly criticised but he won and if ever a batsman hammered the nails into a coffin, it was Stewart now. He and Atherton have both found their roles, they complement one another and in each of these roles they will improve, to the great benefit of England's cricket.

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THE INDEPENDENT

28 July 1998

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

'All they know is how to kill'

Recruitment is brutally simple for the Lord's Army. By night it steals children from Ugandan villages and through torture teaches them the only skill they require

As the little bush plane soars across the vast wilderness of northern Uganda, the devastation caused by the government's ten-year war with the mysterious cult leader Joseph Kony is clearly visible. Across Gulu and its neighbouring districts, neat clusters of miniature thatched huts emerge from scores of bush clearings. But something is missing.

After a few minutes, it sinks in. There are no miniature, matchstick people. The villages are deserted: abandoned by thousands of Acholi tribesmen, terrorised by the Kony's rebel Lord's Resistance Army, which steals across the border from Sudan, Uganda's hostile neighbour, to loot and murder. The rebels then melt back behind the border Ugandan troops cannot cross. Ironically, the LRA claims to champion the Acholi cause.

In flowing white robes, Kony, a former Catholic altar boy from Gulu district, tells rebels that his orders come straight from God. Now in his thirties, he continues to run rings around the army of the Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni.

In Gulu district alone, 150,000 displaced people have moved to cramped, "protected" villages patrolled by Ugandan troops. Acholi independence withers in the queue for UN food. Others have moved to dilapidated, crowded, garrisoned centres such as Gulu town, where the most desperate sleep on the main street.

Evidence of Kony's handiwork is everywhere. His most insane exploits – for example, cutting off the legs of anyone caught riding a bicycle – occasionally hit the international headlines. But it is on the young that he has wreaked most havoc. For the LRA is largely made up of Acholi children, abducted from their families, then brainwashed and brutalised for war.

The kidnap of 139 girls from a local convent school in October 1996 (109 were later dramatically released after pleas from a weeping nun) set off international indignation. Last month's abduction of 40 girls from a Catholic secondary school in Kitgum, Gulu's neighbouring district, briefly rekindled attention.

BY MARY BRAID

But while the world's focus inevitably shifts, the LRA never lets up. Up to 10,000 children have been kidnapped since the early Nineties. Thirteen per cent are girls. Most children were aged 11 to 16, though "recruits" have been as young as four. Charity workers say believe the abduction rate is rising.

In a dusty compound in Gulu Town, local charity Gusco runs a trauma and reintegration centre for child soldiers who have escaped or were captured in battle. "To these children the world does not mean much any more," says a Unicef worker. "They say all they know now is how to kill."

There are hundreds here. In their shorts, T-shirts and flip-flops they look like any other teenagers. But some believe they are haunted by the spirits of those they killed when they returned to Uganda as rebel soldiers. At night their screams echo through the streets surrounding the compound. A high fence separates Gulu town from its former tormentors, and curious local children stare through diamond-shaped wire at those back from the brutality of battle.

Lina, pretty and slight, arouses particular interest, her fragile frame emphasising over-sized breasts heavy with milk. Marcie, her three-month-old, is sucking hungrily. Two years ago the LRA tore Lina, then 14, from her own mother's arms, marched her north and trained her to kill. Shamed lids lower over dark, almond-shaped eyes as she explains the fate of children – and particularly girls – captured by the rebels.

"I was abducted at night," she whispers, picking at Marcie's shawl. "On the way north we joined other LRA units which also had children." The physical brutality and mental torture began immediately. Some children, she murmurs, died on the way.

Almost every child here has witnessed the murder of other children who proved too weak for the journey or tried to escape. The resilient and obedient were quickly "blooded": forced by the LRA to beat their weaker and less-submissive peers to death. Lina remembers "veteran" child soldiers trying to trick recruits. First they would befriend them, then whisper offers of escape. "If you admitted you wanted to go home you were beaten and tortured," she says.

Her suffering was only beginning. Within hours of reaching Sudan, and LRA camps riddled with disease and struggling against famine, she, like all the other girls, became a commander's wife. "They picked the girls they wanted," she says. "The youngest were only 12." Older commanders had many wives. Lina's "husband" was 20: she was his only one. "He beat me for picking the wrong wild roots," she says. "He beat me when his meal was not ready. He beat me for many things."

Lina is open about all her wifely duties, except one. But baby Marcie, in pink, frilly knickers, passed around the compound like a doll, says all there is to say. Other girls have returned with babies; nearly all come home with sexually transmitted diseases.

Lina is reticent about her feelings for Marcie's father. An odd love affair developed, it appears. The beatings became less frequent and before her "husband" died in battle they had planned to escape. Aid workers think she misses him but is afraid to say. After his death Lina became sick and a burden to her unit. She used indifference to simply slip away. "I did not want to give birth in Sudan," she says. "Many girls had babies there but they died."

Lina has stayed with Gusco longer than most. An unmarried mother with a rebel's child is particularly vulnerable in the communities to which abducted children are returned. Gusco is trying to train Lina as a baker, so she can support Marcie. It is also preparing her for prejudice. Richard Oneka, 26, a social worker, says: "The community has abused girls who returned with children. That could affect the mother's attachment to the child."

Lina's eyes drift downward. "I have no idea what will happen to me now," says Lina. Her father, at least, has accepted her back. "He is a religious man," says Mr Oneka. "He is just grateful God spared her life."

At Gulu's other child trauma centre, run by World Vision, Anthony Mugi, a former pastor, is counselling a bewildered, pregnant 15-year-old. "We try to persuade her it is good to have a baby," he says. "But she keeps saying, 'I don't want'. Some days she pretends she is not pregnant."

The LRA sets out to sever captives from everything they have known and loved. At World Vision a 14-year-old boy describes being forced to kill his uncle during an LRA raid: "I felt as if I had no life in me when it happened." That sensation, he says, has never gone away. The LRA made sure his neighbours watched. "How can I ever return home?" he asks.

Bosco, 13, was taken from Gulu district a year ago. He escaped last month during LRA manoeuvres in Uganda. Bosco wants to go home but his village, like most, is vulnerable to attack, and he fears being abducted again. He is a handsome boy with a shy smile. But he tells his story stony-faced. "I killed another child," he says, staring into the distance. "I did this three times. I felt bad but I knew what would happen if I disobeyed. Now I see dead people and blood in my dreams and I know the spirits of the children are coming to haunt me."

He fought many times but insists he retained a sense of right and wrong. Not so other boys. The youngest, he claims, made the most terrifying soldiers. "Those who were 11, 12 and 13 began to demand opportunities to kill," he says. "They feel no roots and

Panos

will never come home." The Ugandan government – and the army – have few illusions about the rebels, but they avoid a tough line with the ones they capture. The rebel soldier becomes a child again only when he lays down his gun. "This is a cult working on small minds," says armed forces chief, Brigadier Katumba Wamala, at Gulu barracks. "Adults would question loyalty to a group which has no political direction or aim...but a child, promoted from private to sergeant, is seduced."

And a child, with no family but the LRA, becomes a slave.

Understanding does not alter the realities of war. "They are kids," says the brigadier flatly. "But they are ready to kill." After capture, there are a few days' debriefing in barracks and the children are handed over to the trauma centres. The treatment is kindly. But then the government has little chance of defeating Kony if the army does not win the battle for Acholi hearts and minds. Despite the LRC's atrocities, Acholi hostility towards the government still guarantees it a crucial sliver of support. The Acholis, favoured by the colonial British and pre-Museveni regimes, rebelled after President Museveni came to power in 1986. The backbone of the defeated government forces, they first regrouped under Alice Lakwena (the Messenger), another cult-cum-rebel leader in a region where superstition, witchcraft, traditional beliefs and fervent Christianity come together in a bizarre and potent mix.

Before battle, Alice, who claimed to be possessed by the spirit of a turn-of-the-century Italian doctor, smeared her 10,000-strong Holy Spirit Movement in nut oil, telling them it would deflect bullets. Her troops would walk into battle, armed with sticks and stones, singing hymns. When the oil – and her rebellion – failed, she fled to Kenya. First her father, then her nephew Kony took on the mantle.

Now Kony is punishing people for losing faith in the rebellion, says George Omona, Gusco's director. Gulu's child soldiers have a variety of Kony stories. Some say he has 60 wives. A handful of those have passed through the trauma centres. Kony, they say, is a wife beater too. One wife told counsellors that she never believed in his supernatural powers. But many other children do.

"When Joseph Kony was with us we prayed under trees," says Lina. "Sometimes we prayed waist-deep in water... I forced myself to believe in him. Anything else was dangerous. Everything he forecast came true." At religious services, where young girls reportedly dressed as nuns sing his praises, Kony promises a government which will rule by the Ten Commandments. His word remains absolute. If he wakes and orders a prayer day everybody worships; on hastily declared fast days no one dares eat. "Anyone who broke the rules could bring misfortune on the group," says Lina. "And for that you could be killed."

At the World Vision centre troops are dropping off 16 captured child soldiers. Hundreds of children already in the compound swarm round the two pick-ups seeking long-lost siblings and friends. In the shade of a tree sit several old women hoping at last to recover a child. A bell heralds a formal welcome ceremony. A row of 15 tense, suspicious, skinny boys and a shy little girl, in an oversized frock, face an excited, clapping audience. Not a single newcomer smiles. What happens squeezes the heart. The centre's director asks children in the audience to raise their hands if they recognise a friend. An arm at the back shoots up and a teenager darts forward. He lifts a boy in the line high in the air and the compound fills with laughter. The newcomers begin to smile. It is possible for a moment to forget all that these children have gone through, and that the centre can only scrape the surface of their trauma.

While the welcome is happening, President Museveni is repeating to a political conference in Kampala that he cannot negotiate with the LRA. The Sudanese government denies aiding the LRA, while Uganda denies supporting the SPLA, the southern Sudanese rebels fighting Khartoum. The truth is that LRA child soldiers are used by the Sudanese army to fight the SPLA, as well as Ugandan troops.

There is no light on a dishonest political horizon. "We work on the assumption that the war will not end soon," says one aid worker. "It is children who will continue to pay."

Ugandan children who have been turned into soldiers go on parade. Below: people who fled the fighting take refuge at a hospital in Gulu *Mike Goldwater/Network*

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Paying for the car

Sir: James Fluss (letter, 24 July) wonders why the motorist who doesn't use public transport should pay for someone else who does. Why should the *non*-motorist pay a high percentage of his/her taxes towards the ever-expanding road network, the cost of treating asthma and the many other conditions, not counting road "accidents", which are caused or exacerbated by traffic emissions or the cost of global warming? But we do.

Of course car transport has all the advantages Mr Fluss claims – for the individual. But for the rest of us, including motorists when they are not actually travelling, it is a disaster. Over the years as a non-car-user I have seen my freedom to move around steadily diminish as bus services to less popular destinations dwindle or take twice as long because one service has to serve too great an area, and cycling and walking become high-risk pursuits.

The blinkered self-centredness of motorists beggars belief.
M SEED
Preston, Lancashire

Sir: I fear that at least 99 per cent of what David Aaronovitch writes about the need for coercion to get motorists out from behind the wheel is true (Review, 21 July). However, he himself is wrong about the impact of Manchester's Metrolink Tram System on car journeys. Nor was it "massively expensive" to build.

Metrolink was the conversion of two existing suburban railways to Altrincham and Bury respectively. The rolling stock used on both lines was all but life-expired, as was the power supply and transmission on the Bury line. All of this would have needed replacement, since the numbers of passengers being conveyed daily was substantial. Both lines, like all of the suburban rail network, were subsidised from the public purse.

Metrolink replaced both railway lines, threw in a cross-city link, and a spur to Manchester's Piccadilly Station. It operates entirely without public subsidy – and, for the record, it has reduced road journeys on the two road corridors it parallels (A56 north and south of Manchester) by approximately 10 per cent. The system loads to capacity during the peaks. It is, however, a classic illustration of the ability of a modern, fast, frequent rail service to reduce the growth in road traffic.
PETER JOHNSTON
Chair 1986-9 Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority, Transport Network Committee
Bolton, Lancashire

Sir: Professor Hibbert (letter, 22 July), is possibly right in suggesting that the car and public transport policies now being proposed will give rise to increased taxes in 2003. Is there any other way of reducing the pollution breathed in by me and mine?

The market cannot provide supplies of unpolluted air to those individuals who can afford it. We all have the same pollution or purity. Low pollution is one of those goods which we can buy only through the tax system.
W J HYDE
Offham, Kent

Sir: Kathleen Wood (letters, 22 July), like many before her, has got things backward in her complaints about motoring taxation on rural dwellers.

Schools, shops, jobs and so on, have shifted away from rural areas because fuel has traditionally been too cheap, not vice versa. This process has been compounded by the great majority of rural dwellers voting for a succession of governments who, through their *laissez faire* planning policies and antipathy to public expenditure, have helped turn towns and villages into dormitories.

Very few people nowadays are forced to live in the countryside, and those that are often have low mileage because they work there too and do not commute miles five times a week. The rest are welcome to come back and live in the towns and cities that they currently clog with their cars every day.

Alternatively, you can wait until rural shops and businesses, teleservices etc, start to reappear in smaller towns and villages as these once again become competitive with those dependent on car journeys for their trade. Isn't that what market forces are all about?

In the meantime, no whingeing please. You reap what you sow.
M SHEARING
Heaxitree, Essex

Forced marriages

Sir: Your assumption that the rise in visa entry applications on the basis of marriage by men from the Indian Sub-Continent, especially Pakistan, reflects an increase in forced marriages is nonsense (reports, 20, 21 July).

It is no surprise that following the abolition of the primary purpose rule, there has been a rise in applications, not because more women are being forced into marriage, but because the rule had operated in a racist way, denying family reunion to hundreds of people.

I also take issue with the final two paragraphs in your lead article (20 July), where I am quoted in a context set by the previous paragraph which states that "some women's groups say the increase of Pakistani men entering Britain using their wife as a sponsor reflects a failure by British officials in Islamabad to check if marriages are wanted or enforced." Then I am quoted as saying that "the British government could and should do more and their failure to act to help Asian women who are kidnapped and taken abroad to be married is basically racist".

I was not saying that British officials assessing visa applications could or should be doing more; I was referring to the fact that the British government could and should be doing more to both prevent abductions and/or forced marriages in the UK and help track down and assist women kidnapped, abused and forced in to marriage abroad.
HANNANA SIDDIQUI
Southall Black Sisters
Southall, Middlesex

Gay age of consent

Sir: Why do people argue they are protecting the innocent as a means of justifying an unfair disparity in the laws governing the age of consent? Whom do they think they are protecting? As a happy gay man (shock horror!) I felt in no need of "protection" when I was 16. I was far more frightened of the way I would be treated by others, especially as then the age of consent between males was 21.
KEVIN J BUTCHER
London N8

Sir: As a gay man who is getting married to my Danish boyfriend next year, I despaired at the House of Lords vote. What an embarrassing display of homophobia, misinformation and intolerance.
I for one will be imploring OutRage! and Peter Thatchall to "out" all closet homosexual bishops and Lords who voted against this amendment. The knives are out and this is war.
HARRY LEWIS
Windsor, Berkshire

Sir: I do not feel that the writer of your leading article ("No compromise on gay rights" 24 July) has his/her finger on the relevant pulse of public opinion.

Over the last few days, in public bars and cattle markets, I have been impressed by the support given to the House of Lords for their opposition to yet another ill-conceived and ill-considered appendage to what must be treated as a sincere piece of proposed legislation, namely the Crime Bill.

From every stratum of society in this, admittedly, rural, and therefore ignored, part of the country the opinion seems to be "Good for the Lords; let's keep them as they are".
FREDRIK PROCOPE
Sinnington,
North Yorkshire

Iraq sanctions

Sir: Patrick Cockburn reports (23 July) that the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Iraq, Denis Halliday, has resigned because he believes that sanctions (despite the new expanded oil-for-food deal) are causing untold suffering to 23 million Iraqis and should be ended.

This is welcome vindication for everyone who has campaigned for the ending of non-military sanctions against Iraq. It is also, we believe, vindication for those who, like ourselves, have gone one step further, and who have deliberately and openly broken sanctions by carrying medicines to Iraq without an export licence, thereby opening ourselves up to prosecution, and positively to imprisonment as a result.

Genuine humanitarians will join Denis Halliday in calling for the immediate lifting of economic sanctions and for a reversal of Robin Cook's far from ethical stance on this issue.
MILAN RAI
MARTIN THOMAS
Voices in the Wilderness UK
London N2

Superteachers' pay

Sir: So the way to recruit more teachers and improve standards in education is to be performance-related pay? ("Superteachers to get big pay rises", *Independent on Sunday*, 19 July). Here is how it will go.

The assessment of "good teachers" will take much time and cause huge controversy within staff rooms about the criteria used.

There will only be enough money for significant rises for at most 20 per cent of teachers.

The great bulk of teachers, the serious professionals who are flogging themselves for the children and doing well, but are not "stars", will be left out, unable to get in on the pay rise. No government will sign the blank cheque needed to bring them in on the scheme, no matter how much they improve.

The unity of the teaching staff in each school and college will be shattered, and with it staff morale.

When will our politicians and bureaucrats realise that today it is teams of teachers doing most of the development in schools, that each teacher is using materials and methods worked out with others? In recent years a string of educational innovations has been rescued from potential shambles (due to rushed timescales and constant revisions) and made into a success by committed teamwork by teachers. What chance of that in future when one of a team of five is paid much more than the rest, not for overall responsibility or time spent on co-ordination, but only because someone (headteacher? adviser? governor?) has tagged them as a "good teacher".

Performance-related pay is for industry: teaching is not an industry; it is a profession with a different ethic.
HARVEY LINEHAN
Ringmer, East Sussex

Jailed journalists

Sir: In the 26 years that Index on Censorship has been cataloguing the intimidation, imprisonment and murder of writers, artists and journalists worldwide, we have had little to report from Britain. But last November, Portsmouth crown court blotted Britain's record when it jailed three journalists from the animal rights newsletter *Green Anarchist*. As a result of their reports in *Green Anarchist* the court decided that they were guilty of "incitement to cause persons unknown to cause criminal damage". They were each jailed for three years. The mainstream press barely reported the trial.

On 27 March this year the three were released on bail, pending appeal. No national newspaper reported this unusual development. Last Thursday the Appeal Court overturned the convictions, although not on grounds of which the Courts can be proud. In this case free speech counted for little and only a legal technicality freed the three. No national newspaper reported the appeal verdict.

A case that has cost the British taxpayer millions of pounds, that has led to three journalists each spending the equivalent of nine months in prison, that has tarnished Britain's reputation around the world has been all but ignored by the serious press here. If these men had been jailed in any other country their release would have been deemed newsworthy. Do British journalists really care so little about the fate of their own, and about press freedom?
URSULA OWEN
Index on Censorship
London N19

Il Duce on display

Sir: Philip Hensher was dismayed to see a picture of Mussolini on the wall of a Soho trattoria ("Waiter! There's a dictator in my soup", 24 July). Last week, at a service station on an autostrada south of Naples, you could buy heads, busts and statues of *il Duce* in a choice of arrogant poses. He was available in more shapes and sizes than *il Papa*.
BRIAN MARSHALL
London W2

Architects to blame

Sir: The picture of the exploding Hackney tower block on your front page today (27 July) led to a Pavlovian response in my Northern Ireland mind, conditioned over 30 years of seeing such pictures.

The two standard questions flashed before me and I can only answer one. Perhaps you can help. The first question, "Who was responsible this time?", has an obvious answer, "the architects". The second question we always ask after such an atrocity is, "Have they accepted responsibility?". Has the architectural practice which condemned people to live in these monuments to architectural arrogance ever said "sorry" to the people whose lives they have blighted?
G WARNOCK
Ballymoney, County Antrim

IN BRIEF

Sir: The arguments about the homosexual age of consent should not obscure a major change of focus in the Crime and Disorder Bill.

Jack Straw, despite his tough media stance on crime, shows a remarkable conversion to rationality. He has declared that future anti-crime policies will be based upon scientific evidence of what is effective in the fight against crime.

This is a fundamental shift and if the Home Secretary is successful he will take Home Office practice into realms usually associated with clinical medicine, of policies based upon empirical research. The Bill will give meaning to the aspiration to be "tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime". For it recognises that some crimes, as with some diseases, have psycho-social origins which require psycho-social intervention.
Dr COLIN PRITCHARD
Professor of Psychiatric Social Work,
University of Southampton

Sir: The observation on *The Magus* ("The worst 100 books of the century", 24 July) does a disservice to Woody Allen and John Fowles. What Woody reportedly said was that if he had to relive his life he would avoid the film of The Magus: quite different from avoiding the book.
ROGER DOBSON
Oxford

Sir: Good to see James Brown receive a favourable review for his performance ("Get up, get on up", 24 July) even though he is 65. Why is it then that if Mick Jagger (55 on Sunday) has the temerity to go on tour again, jokes about zimmer frames appear with such boring predictability?
ROBERT SMITH
Mersham, Surrey

Sir: "A Simple Solution for Sellafield: Shut It Down" (leader, 23 July). Sadly that is not a simple solution – it is only leaving the problem of what to do with nuclear waste to a future generation. Once the problem of nuclear waste has been created surely the only thing to do is to continue until we find a way to deal safely with the matter.
KENNETH C McCRAE
Castle Douglas,
Dumfries and Galloway

The trades description transgressions of Immortality Inc

THERE IS a most extraordinary trial going on in the High Court at the moment, which could endanger the entire existence of the Church of England and bring institutionalised Christianity to an end. Briefly, the Rev Charles Fastnet is up on a charge of breaking the Trades Description Act – but perhaps an extract from the case will illustrate best the clash between organised religion and the law of the land.

Counsel: May I have your name, please?
Defendant: I am the Reverend Charles Fastnet.
Counsel: Just your name, please, not your rank or title in your organisation.
Defendant: My name is Charles Fastnet.
Counsel: Thank you. And what is your business?
Defendant: I am a clergyman.
Counsel: Could you perhaps explain to the court what the business of a clergyman is?
Defendant: Certainly. I perform many functions. I visit the sick, I arrange outings for old age pensioners, I organise a youth club...
Counsel: Just a moment, Mr Fastnet. A doctor also visits the sick. A coach operator may easily fix an outing. Youth clubs are organised by youth club managers. What you are describing is little bits and piece of other professions. What I would like to establish is what is peculiar to a clergyman.
Defendant: Well, I conduct services in our church...
Counsel: Ah ! Can you describe these services?
Defendant: Certainly. They are very much as laid down by the Church of England...
Counsel: Your employers?
Defendant: Yes, I am employed by the Church of England.
Counsel: And you wear their uniform when you conduct services?
Defendant: Well, I have not often heard priest's robes described as a uniform....
Counsel: But that is what they are, is it not? Would you prefer to call it a playing strip?
Defendant: No, I...
Counsel: And during these services you promise everlasting life, do you not?
Defendant: Well, I...
Counsel: I have here a transcript of one of your sermons. In it you say – and I quote – "For our Lord has promised us that if we strive to be good, we shall attain everlasting life..." Are those your words?
Defendant: Yes, I...

MILES KINGTON

'I imagine that you can justify your claims to provide life everlasting and peace hereafter?'

Counsel: You are aware, are you not, that under the Trades Description Act it is an offence to offer a service or function which you are unable to fulfil?
Defendant: Well, I...
Counsel: So that if one of your parishioners were to behave well, but not be rewarded with life everlasting, he might have cause to complain against you?
Defendant: Yes, but...
Counsel: I imagine that you *can* justify your claims to provide life everlasting, and forgiveness, and peace hereafter, and all the other services which your organisation claims to provide?
Defendant: Not exactly. You see...
Counsel: Ah ! So your claims are false, are they ?
Judge: May I just say that you are not giving the defendant much chance to answer any of your questions? I take it there is a reason for this?
Counsel: Yes, m'Lord. I am trying to disconcert him and trick him into rash confessions.
Judge: Jolly good. Carry on.
Counsel: Now, your organisation, the Church of England, undertakes to provide everlasting life in return for good behaviour, is that right?
Defendant: That is what Our Lord said, yes.
Counsel: Our Lord? Who is this person you refer to as our Lord?
Defendant: Our Lord Jesus Christ.
Counsel: Who was born nearly 2,000 years ago?
Defendant: Yes.
Counsel: Yet your organisation, the Church of England, was founded only 500 years ago or less, by King Henry VIII?
Defendant: Yes, I suppose...
Counsel: So your organisation pledges itself to carry out certain services based on the words of someone who died 1,500 years before your firm ever started trading?
Defendant: It was not just someone. It was the Son of God.
Counsel: The Son of God ! Well, well, well, this is a proud boast. I suppose you can *prove* that he was the son of...

[At this point in the trial counsel was struck down by a thunderbolt]

Judge: Oh, dear. I was afraid something like this would happen. Well, we had better adjourn, I suppose.

The case continues, but with a different and possibly less aggressive prosecuting counsel.

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Too much smoke and too little fire in the reshuffle

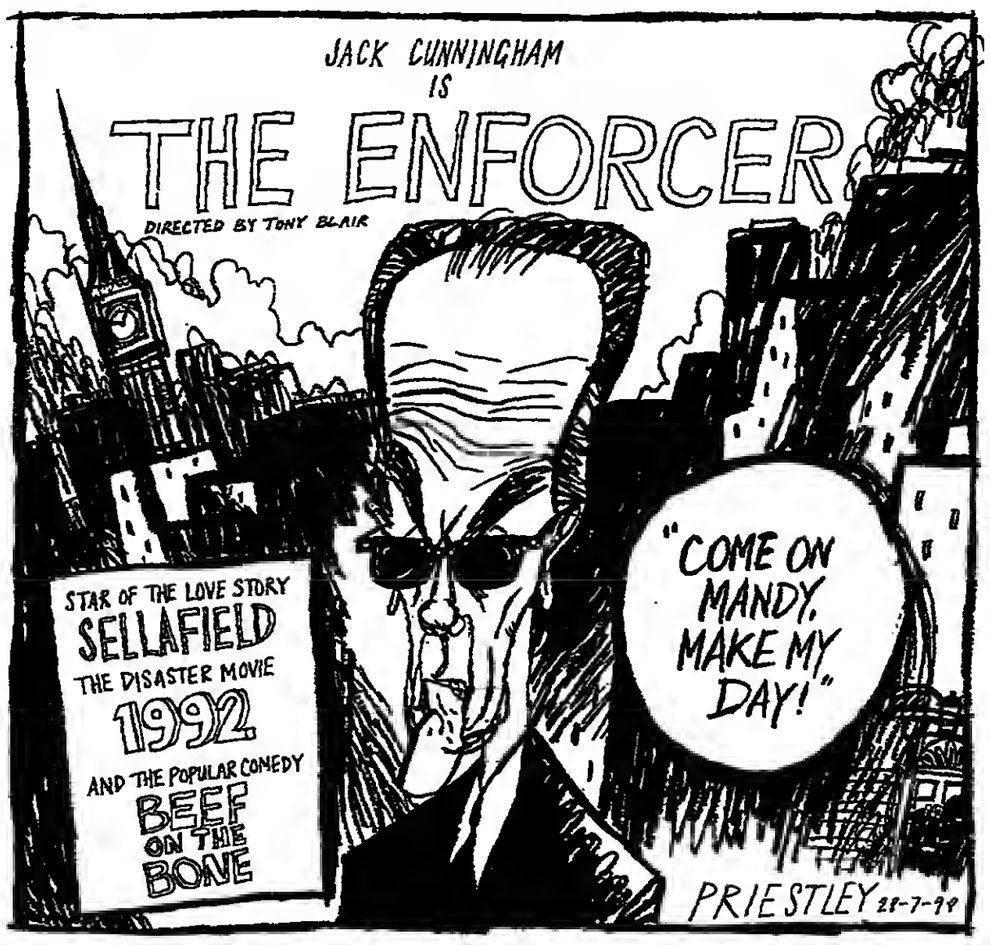
WITH THE Government taking the opportunity of yesterday's reshuffle to smuggle out the Immigration White Paper, the Legg report into Sandline and the Cabinet Secretary's report into the influence of lobbyists, it is a surprise that the slaughter of the first born was not also announced. So ineffectual was the reshuffle that it might have been coococted solely to act as a smoke screeo. Indeed the only important signal from this reshuffle – Frank Field's resignation – is that the Government's bold promises oo welfare reform are worthless.

The Cabinet's big hitters have rightly retained their central positions. Gordon Brown, John Prescott and Jack Straw well deserve to carry on. But the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, must count himself a lucky man. His record so far has been undistinguished, from the débâcle of the "ethical foreign policy" through a self-destructive Middle East tour, to the Sandline affair – which should bave beeo Mr Cook's nemesis. Yesterday's publication of Sir Thomas Legg's report was treated by Mr Cook as a vindication. It was no sucb thing. Tbe dexterity with which the Foreign Secretary diverted all criticism on to his civil servants is at best distasteful, at worst dishonourable. Time was wbeo a minister took responsibility for the actions of his staff – especially when he could plausibly be deemed to bear a large elemeot of personal responsibility. Ideally, Mr Cook should have resigned. At the very least, Mr Blair sbould bave sacked him.

The promotion of Stephen Byers to Cbief Secretary is at ooce good and bad oews. Mr Byers is one of the Government's brightest stars and merits the job. No one is irreplaceable, but in his previous job as Schools Standards Minister, Mr Byers was as near as dammit. He was the only minister in his department fully to comprehend the scale of the problem in our state schools and sufficieotly willing to contemplate the sort of action necessary. There is ooe obvious successor: Kim Howells, the junior minister at the education departmeot, who is similarly free-thinking and equally able.

For all his Prince of Darkness reputation, Peter Mandelson is a talented man and needed to be given a department of his own. He would, of course, have been a natural "enforcer", but it is good both for him and the Government for him to bave a less controversial role. The Prime Minister sbould ensure that responsibility for the Dome remains with Mr Mandelson. The choice of Mr Cunningham, bowever, as his substitute is understandable but wrong. Jack Cunningham is ooe of the most experienced manoeuvrers in both the Labour Party and Whitehall and will oo doubt do a competent job. But his decision to ban beef on the bone bardly inspires confidence in his judgement, and his attempts to justify his actioo were limp in the extreme – and belie his reputation as a safe pair of media hands. Margaret Beckett is lucky to survive. Her new job as Leader of the House will give ber a key role in wbat will be a packed legislative agenda in the next few years. Clearly the Prime Minister did not feel able to ditcb all elements of Labour's past. The appointment of Margaret Jay as Leader of the Lords is bizarre. The House of Lords has already shown its power to bite, and with legislation due to remove bereditary peers a more wily operator – perhaps Andrew MacIntosh – is needed than the receotly ennobled Barooess.

But above all else this resbuffle is a missed opportunity. We await full news of the junior ministers today, but Mr Blair should bave found room to clear out more dead wood. If Mr Blair were the radical be claims to be, he would have done more than merely promote such obvious figures as Messrs Byers and Mandelson. What about Kim Howells, Ian McCartney, Tessa Jowell, Alan Milburn, Alun Michael and Calum MacDooald? This reads like a resbuffle to last not three years but three months.



Jack is not all right on immigration

SO NOW immigratioo and asylum have their very own new Labour slogan. The system, the Home Secretary said yesterday, will be "faster, firmer and fairer". What he should have said was "flawed, fudged and feeble".

A combinatioo of an explosion in the number of immigrants claiming asylum and an endemic inefficiency in the machinery designed to process their applicatioos has led to a backlog of 74,000 cases. To put the scale of the problem into perspective, out of the 267,000 asylum claims logged since 1989, only 6 per ceot have been successful, with 20,000 leaving the country – and the vast majority either waiting for a decisioo or simply vanishing.

Ideotifying the problem is easy. However, identifying a solution oo Mr Straw's terms is almost impossible. It all depeods what you mean by fair. A fast system is of course a pre-requisite. But combining speed with a proper coocern for asylum in its most basic sense is almost impossible. The receot rise in the number of claimants – a 22 per ceot increase in the first three months of 1998 compared with the sama period in 1997 – is certainly in part due to "bogus" claimants. But as long as genuine asylum seekers have the right to special treatmeot – and they should – then there will be abuse.

Rather than messing around with the immigration machinery, Mr Straw would bave been better advised to take a more fundamental look at asylum and immigratioo. First, be should have granted an amnesty to clear the backlog. Quite apart from any moral arguments, by starting the oew regime with so large a oumber of applications awaiting a decision the Immigratioo Service will he chasing its tail *ab initio*.

But more than that, be sbould have braved the reactioo of the tahloids and confirmed that immigration is not the blight of popular imagining, but can be a positive boon. One of the most foolisb (as well as disbonourable) decisions taken in receot years was the last government's refusal to allow the Hong Kong Chinese the right to settle in the UK. Eveo a passing glimpse at their history would have shown bow rich a contribution they would bave made, both economically and culturally. Indeed, the very basis of Mr Straw's asylum criteria – economic migrant bad, political refugee good – is surely flawed. Are not those with the eoergy and gumptioo to move country for work precisely the sort of people any country most needs? Instead, Mr Straw bas tried to be all things to all people. He is a good Home Secretary. But be cannot achieve the impossible.

Blair flashes his smile, dispatches his friends but reveals nothing

DAVID AARONOVITCH

Broum is a Blairite. Harman is a Blairite. Mandelson, Cunningham and Jay are Labour dynasts

AT THE weekend troubling stories were being told of the charming ruthlessness of Tony Blair. An Italian nob called Prince Girolamo Strozzi, had, it seemed, offered *la famiglia* Blair the hospitality of his humble *palazzo* in Tuscany this summer. Situated oear Poggibonsi (not, I am assured, the Italian for fathead), this estate offers Mr Blair needful repose in the beautiful land of Machiavelli, without – appropriately – embarrassing him through association with Mr Geoffrey Robinson, owner of last year's Tuscan hideaway. At the time of writing Mr Robinson's future remains a matter for speculation.

Anyway, his Excellency was subsequently informed that, for the Blairs to enjoy sufficient privacy and maximum security, the Strozzis, from the oldest Strozzi to the babes in arms, must vacate their own palace. *The Sunday Telegraph* painted a dolorous picture of a family wending its way to the gates, its Renaissance pictures loaded on to handcarts. Not so. Prince Girolamo is, apparently, delighted to lend his 50-room mansion to the British Prime Minister.

The lesson here is that being a friend to tha powerful is often a precarious business – as Harriet Harman can today attest. Few careers, personal and political, could have so closely mirrored that of the leader himself; few supporters could have been so unflinchingly loyal; few could so well have personified the appeal of New Labour to Blairite Middle Britain. Yet Harriet emerges as the most tragic casualty of the first year of Labour government.

Imagine the scene. These two ideological soulmates, who have travelled together the path from public school to left politics, from articulate firebrand to coocerned parent, now meet as boss and employee. Her anxious, pretty face appears round the door, and ushers her to a chair. What are his first words? "Harriet, this is very difficult..."? Followed, perhaps, by a recap on all the extraordinary work she has dooe, and a warm restatement of his own esteem for her. "But –" And by now, tough woman that she is, her lip quivers. Can it really be that, 14 months into thousand-year administration, her political career is – at the age of 47 – effectively over?

And he would have to possess a heart of stooe not to feel for her, wouldn't he? It is the ultimate dump, and he knows it. Mr Blair must have been looking forward as much to yesterday's meeting with Harriet, as errant partners do to telling a faithful, long-term lover that it is all over – sorry. But he did it. Mrs Thatcher, by contrast, found it almost impossible to fire her loyal friends, delaying over Cecil Parkinson, for instance, until circumstances forced her hand – yet Blair has shot his favourite pony in his very first reshuffle. The veteran Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, once said of the young Mikhail Gorbachev that he had a nice smile, but also possessed "teeth of steel". Blair, it seems, also has the killer touch.

Harriet herself can join her erstwhile deputy at social security, Frank Field, on the back benches, where they should have plenty to talk about. During Prime Minister's Questions they will be able to muse together on how it came about that they were entrusted with one of the great projects of the New Labour era – welfare reform – and ended up exchanging order papers and gossip with Helen Brinton and Austin Mitchell.

The question of whether this signals the end of the attempt at wholesale welfare reform is probably the most significant aspect of the reshuffle. It could be argued that a more incremental approach headed by the oew, cool, silvery Social Security Secretary, Alastair Darling, stands more chance of delivering real change. Fine. But let us just drop two little questioos into Mr Darling's in-tray, and see how he answers them before we decide. The first is whether he believes, as Mr Field did, that there is something called "welfare dependency", and that the existing welfare system has – often – penalised thrift, while rewarding laziness and fraud? The second is whether he feels that the object of reform should be a socially engineered remoralisatioo of society, or simply the remission to the Treasury of large funds, health and education for the use of?

We do oot know the answer to this questioo – just as we do not really know what Dr Jack Cunningham is for. This rediscovered politician is now credited with exceptional powers of coocentration and quiet determination, and welcomed – in preference to Peter Mandelson – as the "fixer" or "enforcer" of the Cabinet. But what does this mean?

The model is supposed to be the interdepartmeotal exclusioo task force, whose joh has been to co-ordinate policies across the great baronies in the service to the benefit of those who have little stake in society. Barons do not like enforcers; kings like enforcers. The more that Dr Cunningham does, the more the hand of the Prime Minister will be felt in the great departments of state. But is he there to meddle vigorously in all those areas where policies require co-ordination and mediation? Or will he be used sparingly, to troubleshoot when his colleagues seem to need him? We do oot know.

Nor are we sure where the reshuffle leaves us in terms of the political balance of power in the Cabinet. Attempts by various journalists to taxonomise the various mammals, birds, fish and insects in the Government have begun to border on the silly. We have old-style right-wingers, neo-Blairites, centre-left loyalists, new zealots, and many more. It reminds me of the period when, as a young TV researcher for ITV's *Weekend World*, I was top Russia expert as ancient Soviet leader after ancient Soviet leader feebly wagged their feet at the hucket. As Brezhnev, Andropov and Chernenko were successively bricked into the Kremlin wall, we tried to help the viewers to make head or tail of it. Graphics were produced showing who was who io the Politburo. Ryzhkov was a reformer, so was Aliyev. But what about Dinmukhamed Kunayev? We did oot know, and nor did anyone else. So we created a group called "swingers" or something, and put the elderly Kazakh in that.

The truth seems to me to be that a Blairite, if it is anything, is an ethical socialist, probably of middle-class origin, well educated and religious, who believes in the improvability of man, in the context of ordered social relations. Brown is a Blairite. Harman is a Blairite. But Mandelson and Cunningham, for instance, are not Blairites. The oew Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has oot a religious cell in his body. He was never, I would bet, a member of CND, and was only – for a few heady teenage months – to the left of, say, Shirley Williams.

No, Cunningham and Mandelson are Labour dynasts. Like Baroness Jay they are scions of right-wing Labour families, a continuity with previous eras of power. They are to the People's Party what Girolamo Strozzi is to Tuscany. But their promotion still does not tell us anything too interesting about Blair himself. Which means that, at last, Tony has dropped his dress and – tantalisingly – nothing is revealed.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I believe ooe of the most veoomous poisons dripped on to the education sceoe in receot times has been the phrase 'name and shame'."
Ros Griffiths, new chairman of the Professional Association of Teachers

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"He that fails in his endeavors after wealth or power will not loog retain either honesty or courage."
Dr Johnson, English man of letters

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The World's press examines the tasks facing Japan's new PM

"THE NEW government must place the highest priority on bailing the nation out of its financial crisis as quickly as possible. Although thorough deliberations are needed, more should be done to extricate the nation from its financial crisis. Financial institutions should realise their responsibility, and make greater efforts to help solve the problem."
Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan

"FINANCIAL MARKETS will continue to be plagued by uncertainty, as they come to terms with the choice of the new Japanese prime minister. The Australian dollar will remain captive to any hints of stringeot reforms from the Japanese Prime Minister elect, Keizo Obuchi. The Commonwealth Bank of Australia intends to closely scrutinise the economic credeotials of the new premier, as the close correlation with the yen means that the Australian dollar will be left on shaky ground."
Australian Financial Review

"THOUGH THERE were three candidates for the leadership, there were really no major differences in economic policy. It boiled down to managing support and party politics. On that count, Mr Obuchi was the front runner from the moment be threw his hat in the ring. The new leader may have little problem within the LDP. His real test will come in striking deals with smaller opposition parties in the Senate, where the LDP has no majority."
The Hindu, India

"KEIZO OBUCHI needs to enact permanent tax cuts, reform Japan's troubled bank system and further open its over-regulated market. Whether he and his fellow party barons appreciate the urgency of these tasks remains to be seen. So does the extent of co-operation he can count on from opposition parties, which – delighted by the LDP's slumping popularity and the stodgy figure now at its helm – may push instead for confrontation and early lower house elections. Japan has a new leader, in other words, hut the prospects for reform remain chancy."
The Washington Post

"EVEN EXPERIENCED political analysts must find it difficult to single out the determinant in Friday's party presidential election. The lack of persistent enmity among the factions will likely encourage party members to unite more strongly than ever behind Mr Obuchi. He should demonstrate reassuring leadership when he launches a oew Cabinet and implements emergency policies. He must put to rest both the people's concerns and international jitters."
Japan Times

PANDORA

YESTERDAY'S RESHUFFLE confirmed Pandora's prediction (13 July) that Tony Blair's chief of staff, Jonathan "Wallpaper" Powell, would become the most powerful man in Blair's inner circle. This follows Peter Mandelson's loss of influence (but gain of a "spending" ministry) after the Cronygate controversy. Jack Cunningham has been appointed Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, but will he assume the power that Mandelson would have had in this position? Not likely, Party insiders have told Pandora. Blair now trusts Powell more than any other single colleague or adviser. Despite some newspapers' hasty attempts to portray Cunningham as one of the Cabinet's "toughest" ministers, just a week ago he was seen as weak and likely to get the chop. Instead, he has been elevated to potentially one of the most powerful posts in the Cabinet. Cunningham will have a hard job convincing some that he is more than just "window dressing" for Blair's powerful chief of staff.

THE INVENTOR and businessman Kenneth Stanley has written a strident letter to Westminster politicians attacking both British farmers and MPs' disdain for Britain's manufacturing industry. "In 40 years spent as an inventor on four industrial estates I've never seen an MP in a factory," Stanley claims. His Bournemouth-based company makes bonding fasteners and, he asserts modestly, "I'm in the invention business, a high-risk lifestyle for which I volunteered. I need all the cash I can get to expand my company. Contrary to what farmers believe I do not owe them a living in an industry for which they, too, volunteered." The name of his firm? Big Head.

AS HE hypes his new film, *Saving Private Ryan*, the director Steven Spielberg has told the media that he believes D-Day was the "pivotal point" in the entire 20th century. Not so, according to the author and critic Milton Shulman (below), whose memoirs, *Marilyn, Hitler and Me*, have been enthusiastically reviewed. "Pearl Harbour was the pivotal point. If America had not been drawn into the war when they were, the Germans might very possibly have won. There would have been no D-Day without Pearl Harbour." As for recent revelations about British plans to assassinate Hitler, Shulman took an equally definitive view in his first book, *Defeat in the West*, published in 1947 but still in print. The Allies' victory, he asserted, was hastened by Hitler's insane military strategy. An assassination, followed by the Führer's replacement with saner military minds, would have lengthened the war.

PIVOTAL Or not, Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan* had a massive $30m opening weekend in North America. This may have had something to do with the lethal heat driving Americans into their air-conditioned cinemas for the past nine weeks, breaking all-time summer box office records. However, even the hot weather wasn't enough to heat up *Godzilla*, which took only $100,000 last weekend. Columbia TriStar announced, six weeks early, that the monster flick will go into video in November.

A NEW response has arrived from London Transport to our Anti-Rucksack on the Tube Campaign. In a faxed statement, a spokesman, Neil Byrne writes, "We have every sympathy for passengers who have suffered at the hands of errant rucksacks." So far, so good, but apparently that sympathy does not extend to doing anything about the problem. Loodon Transport believes existing regulations that "prohibit passengers from causing an obstruction with their luggage, or placing it on seats" are sufficient. In fact, LT's statement takes an obstinate, mocking stance: "We are not in the business of legislating for common sense and courtesy. Where would such a campaign end – banning people with insufficient deodorant protection during the summer months or people with bad breath during the rush hour?" If LT cannot see the difference between sniffing something unpleasant and getting bashed in the face with 40lb of rucksack, then we seriously question whether the organisation has any common sense. A new regulation, posted clearly throughout the Underground system, banning the wearing of rucksacks in crowds, is what we demand. The campaign continues.

HAVING RECEIVED kosher approval for its Sensodyne toothpaste from London's Beth Din rabbinical council, it seems that a company spokesman may have stuck his foot into his mouth. Speaking for the international health care group Stafford Miller, the spokesman told the *Jewish Chronicle*: "a large number of Jewish people suffer from sensitive teeth."

Is this the start of a burgeoning new ethnic toothpaste market?

Publishers between clean sheets

TERENCE BLACKER

Where did TV types get the idea that those who work with books are amoral and libidinous?

LIKE MANY people, I was interested to hear that the distinguished history of the Virago publishing house was to be re-created in a TV docudrama. Ignoring my general rule of thumb for TV – if it is not football, Steve Coogan or *Spin City*, it is unlikely to be worth watching – I tuned in to a programme called *Big Women*. Unfortunately, instead of finding a dramatic yet sober reconstruction of Carmen Callil and her feminist collective, I seemed to have blundered upon one of Channel 4's new porn extravaganzas. A circle of variously sized women were dancing about in the buff, yodelling native American love chants and thrusting themselves excitedly at the camera. I rang a fellow author to find out what had happened to the drama-doc.

No mistake, he told me. This was in fact an early Virago editorial meeting. I've been in a state of mild shock ever since.

Could it really have been like that? I was working in book publishing at the time and, so far as I can remember, meetings were decorous, dull, clothed affairs at which even mild expletives caused something of a frisson. If there was any erotic activity, it was of the furtive, shameful kind traditional in English offices – low-grade sexual harassment of junior staff, despairing fumblings at the Christmas party, late-night snogs at sales conferences and so oo.

Occasionally, two well known editors may become embroiled in a semi-public adulterous affair, whose excitements we would all share, almost as if they were misbehaving on behalf of the rest of us.

So where on earth did TV types get the idea that those who work with books are amoral and libidinous? Most people in publishing have a notoriously low sex drive, many of them indulging only once a year at something called the Frankfurt Book Fair, a five-day event during which the town's famous Banhofstrasse is said to echo late at night to the sound of British publishers achieving their annual release.

Yet, over the years, the name of these people has been besmirched in a series of TV dramas. The grey goat of a seducer played by Frank Finlay in *A Bouquet of Barbed Wire* was an editor. A rather beautiful love-affair between two people in publishing was adapted into an embarrassing sex-and-class sitcom with Peter Bowles and Penelope Keith. More recently, Deborah Moggach's otherwise superb *Close Relations* seemed to have got it about right, featuring a male editor who was a weak-minded semi-alcoholic who got fired from his job – but then spoilt it all by putting him in bed with two beautiful women.

Perhaps there is a wider moral here. In contemporary entertainment – novels, television series, newspaper exposés – the dull domestic history of our times is being rewritten as a wet dream of universal hedonism. In a desperate attempt to divert attention from their own inhibited, trammeled lives, writers and directors are presenting a fantasy of what might have been.

The fact is that, for the vast majority of people, sex is yesterday and tomorrow but rarely today; it is something that takes place in the next room beyond the hotel wall, to other, less tamed and domesticated people. Even if, by some accident, they find themselves in a Babylon of good times, it somehow passes them by. I speak with some authority here, having spent what became known as the Summer of Love in the throbbing centre of hippiedom, the Haight Ashbury district of San Francisco, remaining throughout a scrubbed, drug-free virgin.

Is it any wonder that, assailed by all these overheated fantasies, we have become erotically obsessed, queuing in doctors' surgeries for the new erection pill, pumping our breasts with silicone, filling our newspapers with semi-pornographic crime reports, celebrity kiss-and-tell exclusives and stories about how smoking cigarettes reduces penis size?

As it happens, the truth about book publishing is that historically it has been propelled not by desire but by a peculiar form of exclusiveness, a snobbery that is partly social and partly intellectual, developed by people who are neither top-drawer types nor spectacularly bright. No group was more snootily self-contained and suspicious of outsiders than the hip young things who set up new, groovy imprints during the Seventies.

It is possible, I suppose, that, while the rest of us assumed they were redefining our cultural heritage, energising a tired industry and redressing the gender imbalance of literary history, the Virago gang were in fact prancing about starkers in a north London sitting-room. Now that I have seen them on TV, I'm not sure I missed all that much.

Homosexuality is neither a white man's disease nor a sin

ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Uganda has 22 Christian martyrs who were killed because they refused to be sodomised

GAY BASHING isn't just about aggressive young men setting about some lad of effeminate habits. It is also bishops discussing homosexuality at the Lambeth Conference. Consider what happened last week at this once-a-decade meeting of all the bishops of the Anglican Communion. The group charged with discussing sexuality refused to listen to a presentation by a party of lesbian, gay and bisexual Christians.

The gays and lesbians were told to go away with the words of one African bishop ringing in their ears. He asked why if they were discussing homosexuality, they were not also considering bestiality and child abuse. Indeed some of the African bishops maintain that homosexuality is a 'white man's disease'. That is why, if a presentation were to be allowed, it should include testimony from homosexuals who had been 'healed'.

Rejection, insult, belittlement, anger; are not these the attitudes that comprise homophobia, which is fear or hatred of homosexuals and homosexuality? Yes; but for the bishops there is something else to consider here which could hardly be more important for them – how the Bible should be interpreted. On the face of it the Bible classifies homosexuality as a sin. Only a few texts refer to same-sex relations, but those that do are hostile.

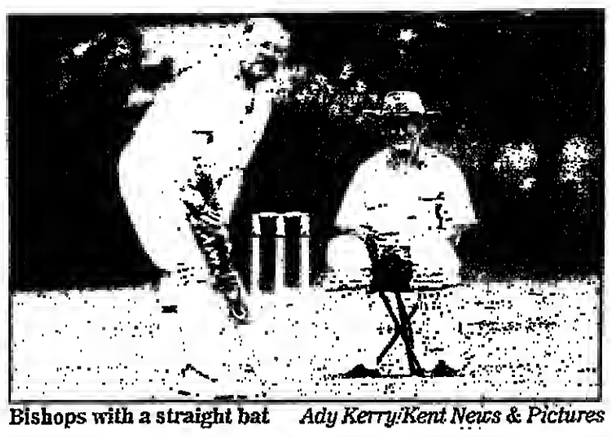
What the outraged bishops of Africa should have said is that homosexuality is the least of our problems, if it is a problem at all. Much more serious for us, they might have remarked, in the area of sexual relations is the rape crisis in South Africa, where one rape is committed somewhere in the country every 27 seconds, and the fact that Aids, mainly of heterosexual origin, is affecting whole populations.

The conference organisers have tried to keep the issue of sexuality as far down the agenda as they can. They prefer to push the main focus on to Third World debt. How easy. No bishop is going to oppose the cancellation of a poor country's borrowings. It gives delegates a chance to sound off about the imperfections of capitalism and the world trading order. No knotty theological issues are raised. Debating Third World debt is too easy a way to pass the time and look good.

They really have to come to terms with homosexuality. Do they want any longer to see banners held aloft by lesbian and gay Christians which state: "We're praying for an inclusive church." What a rebuke! Until last week's debate in the House of Lords, I didn't expect to have to say that clarification is even required about whether the Anglican Communion believes that homosexual people should have equality before the law. But some English bishops voted against equalising the age of consent for heterosexuals and homosexuals.

The first step towards resolving the issue would not be difficult. That is to indicate what kinds of sexual behaviour should be condemned. The conference preparatory document entitled *Called to Full Humanity* provides a starting point. It says of promiscuity, adultery, prostitution, child pornography, active paedophilia, bestiality and sadomasochism that these forms of sexual expression are sinful. This list can by applied to both heterosexual and homosexual behaviour (reading "adultery" as infidelity). Agreement should be fairly straightforward, though what is meant by promiscuity would have to be carefully stated. There are also defenders of sadomasochism between consenting adults in private to be heard. Having defined behaviour of which the Anglican Communion disapproves, then it could turn to two big questions. First, should a blessing, a form of marriage service if you like, be provided for same-sex couples, who are neither promiscuous nor unfaithful? It is surely not good enough for the Church to say that celibacy is the only option for gay and lesbian persons. And second, should people who openly profess that they are gay or lesbian be ordained to the priesthood?

If the Anglican Communion answers yes to both questions then it would have interpreted the Bible in a way which is not strictly literal. Or perhaps the literal versions have been misunderstood. Richard Holloway, the Bishop of Edinburgh, points out in a recent pamphlet that one Jewish scholar has suggested that the injunction against men lying with men in Leviticus is a condemnation of the ancient habit among victorious troops of raping men as an assertion of their power over them – an outrage which also happened in Bosnia in the civil war of the mid 1990s. Likewise Uganda has 22 Christian martyrs who were killed in 1885 by their king because they refused to be sodomised by him. Actually, this limited interpretation is unlikely to appeal to a present day Ugandan bishop, the Bishop of Nityana, Wilson Mutebi. He says: "Homosexuality is a sin, and any bishop who teaches otherwise is committing a sin. He must repent in order to be in communion with us. If he does not, we cannot be in the same church with him."



Bishops with a straight bat *Ady Kerry/Kent News & Pictures*

Thus the issue of homosexuality will put the famously elastic nature of the Anglican Communion to the test. It is constantly mocked as being a broad church, containing within it a range of views too wide for its own good. The last major upheaval was the departure of the Methodists centuries ago. The Anglican Communion exists as a compromise, as a middle way or third way, embracing both the insistence of the Protestant reformation on individual salvation, intense study of the Bible and evangelism and the Catholic tradition of a threefold ministry of bishop, priest and deacon and an emphasis upon personal holiness through self-discipline. It has no central authority; the resolutions of the Lambeth Conference have no binding force – the Archbishop of Canterbury is first among equals and not an Anglican Pope. Consensus is in its bones. Anglicanism is by nature intuitive and moderate.

Cardinal Newman said that "every organisation seemed to start with a prophet and end up with a policeman". Actually the Church of England itself, the founding church of the Anglican Communion, began with a policeman (Henry VIII) and has never produced a prophet. That is why I think it will successfully come to terms with homosexuality as it has in the past decade come to terms with the question of women priests. The gay bashing of the 1998 Lambeth Conference will in time be seen as an aberration. After 2,000 years, the priesthood would at last be completely open – to men and women, heterosexuals and homosexuals alike.

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Don't blame the bankers for poverty

PODIUM

JIM WOLFENSOHN

From a speech given by the President of the World Bank to the Lambeth Conference

I'M UPSET. I'm upset because some people paint a picture of our institution which is quite simply wrong. I work with 10,000 people in the Bank who are committed to poverty eradicabon. We do not get up every morning and think what we can do to ruin the world. We have a problem of three hundred million people who do not have clean water. We have a problem of a billion and half people who do not have access to any form of housing. I have been to 83 countries. I do not go to the beaches as has been suggested. I go to the slums and I go to the villages. And I yield moral superiority to nobody. And nor do my people. My people care. We work to try to make the world a better place. And the characterisation of the World Bank as the epicentre of debt problems which create all the problems of the world is neither fair nor correct.

I spend an enormous amount of my time trying to convince governments that their responsibility to the poor of the world is not just a moral responsibility, but it is a responsibility to themselves in terms of interdependence with a world which has 4.7 billion people in development out of the total of 5.6 billion.

We are losing the battle. I can tell you from my visits to over 80 countries harrowing stories. Stories that I have seen with my own eyes that have caused me to break down, not because I am a banker who has no feelings but because I care.

The highest item on our agenda on which we're putting $3 billion is education and health. We are the leaders in education, in health care. No one talks about River Blindness. We've eradicated or nearly eradicated River Blindness in Africa for 30 million people. We have managed to clean up the water, kill the mosquitoes and restore people to arable land. We're the major fighter in the world against Aids. We're the major fighter in the world against malaria. And we at the Bank this year will put $18 billion into activities against poverty.

That is why I get anxious. That is why I may sound defensive. I do not feel defensive. I feel that what we should get out of this conference is not a sense of confrontation because I am doing many of the things that the church wishes to do and should do itself.

The debt issue is a very critical issue. There is no doubt that in many countries the payment of debt is a principal reason why social and other services could not be provided. In the highly indebted countries the amount of debt is around $215 billion on present data, that is today's value of the future debt. The total debt of the developing countries is $2 trillion, $2 thousand billion. Let me just say to you that of the $215 billioo worth of debt, the World Bank has less than nine per cent. The International Monetary Fund has less than five per cent. Between 55 and 60 per cent of the debt comes from individual creditor countries. The United Kingdom, the United States, European countries have 55 per cent of the debt and the rest are banks and various assorted creditors.

Let us take the point in terms of this debt problem. We have said that we're prepared to bear our full share. And we've done it on the basis of a very simple proposition. If someone comes and says, "Jim, I'm in trouble. I've got all these debts and I can't send my kids to school and I can't do lots of things. Will you lend me or give me ten thousand dollars?" If the guy's a gambler or a womaniser or whatever or on drugs or has no sense of money the chances are you'll say, "Look, I'll try and do something for your kids, but until you improve your ways I'm surely not going to give you ten thousand because it will just go out the window." Countries are the same. Corruption exists. Bad management exists. Inadequate assessment of social responsibilities exists. I have said on many occasions, if my owners who are the 180 countries want me to forgive debt at the World Bank which has a balance sheet of $150 billion I can forgive only $23 billion. Why? Because the only capital I have is $23 billion. I have to borrow the other $130 billion so I can repay the pension funds, the church commissioners, others who have invested. And governments depend on the earnings of the Bank and the repayment of debt for between 50 and 60 per cent of the funding of future international development programmes. Before you level your accusations, look at the economics.

I believe that our children will have a better chance of living in peace and prosperity if we work together. That is the reason I flew over. And I very much hope that you will recognise that I believe in God, that I care and that our objectives are the same.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Diana didn't want a garden

ROY STRONG

Virtually everything Diana epitomised is exactly the opposite of what is being proposed

Although now perpetually associated with flowers, Diana herself showed little interest in gardening

OVER A decade ago I found myself sitting next to Princess Diana's senior lady-in-waiting Anne Beckwith-Smith. Shortly before that encounter, Rosemary Verey, who had designed and planted the Cottage Garden at Highgrove with Princess Diana in mind had said to me that sadly she had never met her. So, seizing my chance, I said to Anne, did she think she could persuade the Princess to pop out one day when Mrs Verey was at Highgrove and say how much she loved the garden she had made for her. Back came the reply, "The garden's his", with a heavy accent on the last word.

There is not one shred of evidence that Diana, Princess of Wales was ever interested in gardens, so over the last few months I have watched with increasing bewilderment the progress of the bizarre phenomenon of no less than 27 acres of Kensington Gardens being sacrificed in order to make a vast horticultural shrine in her honour. As a contributor to the Prince of Wales's wonderful garden at Highgrove and the author of a television series and a book on the history of the royal gardens, I feel that I am able to write with some authority on this subject.

What is clear is that someone has taken leave of their senses, flying in the face of every known historical fact, not to mention the overwhelming view of educated opinion. And why? Just to pander to the lowest form of emotionalism. In spite of the eccentric composition of the Diana Memorial Committee, members of it knew perfectly well that what Diana treasured was not the constraints, as she would have seen them, of a dignified formal garden, but the freedom and space which Kensington Gardens provides as it is.

Virtually everything she epitomised is exactly the opposite of what is being proposed. She would have hated the idea of a garden. She wouldn't have warmed to a shrine. She would have been appalled at the amount of money spent. Why the Committee didn't opt for what everyone assumed that they would, a hospital for children or a hospice for the sick, no one will ever know. Plonk a statue of her in the front of it if you must, so that those still suffering from mourning overdrive could lay flowers, but leave it at that.

But oh no, that is not to be – and why? Diana dead is an icon to be hijacked, a caring and glamorous one which attracts a whole web of appeal running from single parent mothers to gays to readers of magazines like *Vogue*.

Politically it is an astute one to colonise, and New Labour – from the moment, in the aftermath of her death, when the Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell coined the phrase "People's Princess" – has done precisely that. They want to chain the People's Princess to their chariot wheels and what better means by which to do it than the garden?

The fact that it is an abdication of rationality seems to be neither here nor there. It doesn't seemingly matter also that 350,000 visitors are going to converge monthly on the shrine, log-jamming the already jammed streets in and around Kensington.

Who cares either that the water jet in the Round Pond will obliterate wildlife or the chances for little people to sail their model boats? Everything must sacrificed to provide a London Diana-experience parallel to that already launched at the Althorp estate.

I have every sympathy for the occupants of Kensington Palace. Fortunately the Prince of Wales has moved out, but for those left it will be like finding themselves permanently marooned in the midst of a secular equivalent of the grotto at Lourdes. It will not be amusing.

Nor has any attention been given to the fact that the area it is proposed to develop is a prime archaeological site. One of the greatest of all baroque gardens was once precisely where the flowers were laid. It lies beneath the greensward.

The contours are still there and, on the far side of the park, Sir Christopher Wren's magnificent garden seat still exists ready to be re-sited. Visitors to Hampton Court know what archaeology has achieved in the restored Privy Garden, which is now giving pleasure to untold thousands of visitors. If a Diana garden has to be created it must be achieved without damage to what lies beneath.

But Kensington Gardens, on account of their central urban location, have become something quite other than Hampton Court, situated on the fringes of the metropolis. They are a cherished lung in a polluted cityscape. It is a space alive at all times of the year with walkers and joggers, those exercising the dog or pushing a pram. In the summer lunch-timers picnic on the grass and it is a place where lovers daily in the sunshine.

Although the gardens began their life as a baroque magnificence, with allées radiating out from the palace, subjecting the surrounding terrain, over two centuries have negated that arrangement in favour of what, at first glance, is an informal landscape. Walkways in fact deliberately cut across the baroque axes obviating them and strengthening the illusion that what is there is more akin to what the British love most, a Capability Brown park.

It has been said that the Prince of Wales may be involved in the design of the gardens, if unfortunately they do proceed with the plans. Perhaps he will be astute enough not to get involved in the brickbats which will fly on the sight of any scheme. Superb gardener as he is, the Prince of Wales will quickly realise that Kensington Gardens are not the ideal location for a variation on the intricacies of Highgrove with its elaborate topiary, serpentine flower beds and stumpery.

I might add that all questionnaires used to gauge opinion regarding the garden work from the premise that it is to happen, asking those who fill in the questionnaires to say how many flower beds they would like. I am glad to say many have told me that they have drawn a line across it and written in capitals "Stop the garden!"

So far the luckless public has been provided with nothing but the vaguest idea of what this £10 million folly will look like, let alone the cost of maintaining it in perpetuity. But the battle is not over. It has only just begun. Those struggling to stop this happening should not give up just because an arrogant government had adopted a mind set.

The Diana garden along with the Millenium Dome are sacred totems of their era designed to provide "the people", whoever they are, with a variation on the old bread and circuses theme. In their heart of hearts they must know that the garden is a cheap appeal to the lowest common denominator.

It will also put in place a permanent shrine for what in the long run will prove transitory, as new icons arise. Anyone with any knowledge of history will know that what is proposed as a memorial is far in excess of anything erected to honour even our two greatest queens, Elizabeth I and Victoria.

RIGHT OF REPLY

JOHN GUINNESS

The Chairman of BNFL argues that the Sellafield nuclear power plant should remain open

THE INDEPENDENT advocates closing Sellafield as a "simple solution" to radioactive discharges. Such a radical step, dismissing 17,000 skilled jobs, billions of pounds of exports, and recycling valuable energy sources, deserves a more balanced appraisal.

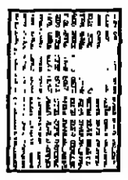
Nuclear power provides some 25 per cent of British electricity, saving 35 million tons of CO_2 emissions annually – and helping to meet the Government's very demanding targets. Reprocessing at Sellafield supports that power. Reprocessing separates the "unburnt" parts (96 per cent uranium and one per cent plutonium) so they can be recycled. The waste is stabilised into solid blocks suitable for storage. One ton of plutonium, recycled as Mox Fuel, has the energy equivalent of two million tons of coal.

There is worldwide demand for reprocessing, which is profitable. The skills involved are world-beaters: BNFL has won $2.5bn (£1.6bn) of orders to clean up Cold War waste in America. Stopping reprocessing would also increase nuclear waste volumes – Britain's High Level Waste would increase fourfold if Sellafield closed.

Like all companies, indeed all human activities, BNFL has an environmental cost: in our case, discharges. The issue is whether the benefit is worth the cost. And BNFL is doing everything it can to minimise discharges. An investment of £2bn has slashed them to about one per cent of peak levels.

The most exposed individual living near Sellafield receives an annual radiation dose from marine discharges of 130 units: people in Cornwall receive over 7,000 units from natural sources. Closing Sellafield would make only a minuscule impact upon the radiation dose and cost billions that would be better spent on health, education and the environment.

Names in search of a character



TUESDAY BOOK

THE LAND OF GREEN PLUMS
BY HERTA MÜLLER, TRANSLATED BY MICHAEL HOFMANN, GRANTA, £9.99

ANOTHER ILLUSION bites the dust. A friend with some experience of the totalitarian regimes of eastern Europe tells me that samizdat publishing, far from lifting writing in those wretched places, did it a good deal of harm. Rather than acting as a guarantee of serious, important work, samizdat published anything, however bad, so long as it contained a breath of dissent.

Then, when freedom finally came, and it was possible to write anything and have it published normally, things got worse instead of better. There was an intoxication with writing for its own sake; a narcissism not of subject, as in our own Hampstead Adultery Novel, but of style. That period is probably over by now; but in spite of the Global Village (another illusion), it takes different parts of the world a while to catch up with each other.

Herta Müller is a Romanian writer who lives in Berlin. The IMPAC prize of £100,000, which her novel *The Land of Green Plums* has just won, is given from Dublin. But it is really American: all its judges but one (at least this year) are American or live in America. The sole exception is a Finn.

I don't want to say that Americans cannot judge European writing. Perhaps, quite properly, they feel humble before a kind of human suffering they have been spared; and this may have influenced the judges' decision. But I do not doubt that it was primarily a literary judgement; it's just one with which I disagree.

This is a matter of taste, I admit. The bedrock of literary judgement always is. So let me describe this book as objectively as I can, then you can decide if your taste is closer to mine or to the judges'.

The Land Of Green Plums is a poetic novel, and closer to poetry than to the novel. It is written in short bursts of short paragraphs, at the very most 20 or so, and often no more than one. So it has the same stop-go tempo throughout. Its characters are all described poetically. For example, they have "the province in their faces". But they are hardly at all distinguished as individuals, in terms of their natures, thoughts or even appearances (except for their hair colour). Each time that Ernst, Georg or Kurt appeared, I had to check back to see who he was.

Tereza is perhaps the easiest to remember. At least she has a recognisable character, though not an attractive one (shallow, flighty, corrupt). Who Lola is, and why the narrator should mind when she dies (since she'a even less appealing than Tereza) I don't know. I couldn't care about any of them.

But this is more a poem than a novel, and not always (to my taste, again) a good poem. If you like people's hearts being called "heart-beasts" (*Hertztier* was actually the title of the novel in German) then you will like this book. If you like the same image being sonorously evoked every time someone appears – the mothers all have illnesses, the narrator's father flagellates his war guilt in his "damn stupid plants" – then you will like this book.

There are constant references to barbers and nailclippers: these people must have the shortest nails and hair in the world. The nailclippers come to have a secret meaning in the code of the dissidents under the Ceausescu dictatorship, but I never did work out what all the barbers mean. The chorus of sacks, containing a belt, a window, a nut and a rope, represent the deaths of the narrator's friends: Lola by hanging (the belt), Georg by jumping (the window), Tereza by cancer (the nut, ie a lump), Kurt by hanging again (the rope). I hope that this helps.

The most annoying thing of all is that every now and again you glimpse a riveting story, and someone who could tell it. The encounters with the Securitate captain, Pjele, are horribly believable. The details of the friends' hopeless jobs in hideous places, of their dissident activities (no more than reading a few forbidden books, as far as I could tell), of their coded letters and snatched conversations – all these are almost interesting. Their past is as evil as their present: they all belong to Romania's German minority, as their names suggest, and their fathers were SS officers during the war.

Herta Müller can write, and hers is a very terrible story. If she had only told it, instead of making fine phrases – now that would have been worth a prize.

CAROLE ANGIER

Herta Müller writes of Romania's German minority

TUESDAY POEM

THE AFFIRMATIVE
BY C H SISSON

The trick of sex, there is no doubt,
First taught the animals to speak.

But Yes is not a word at all;
The first word that they spoke was No.

All conversation still remains
A gloss upon the negative.

For Yes could only hold its tongue;
Its work is in another place.

Our poems this week come from C H Sisson's 'Collected Poems' (Carcanet Press, £12.95). This poem first appeared in 'Metomorphoses' (1968)

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THE TUESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 28 July 1998

Lord Smith

RODNEY SMITH was a surgeon whose consummate skill and driving ambition took him to the pinnacle of his profession.

For his expertise in the most challenging aspects of abdominal surgery he was famous throughout the English-speaking world, while his conduct of the Presidency of the Royal College of Surgeons brought him the acclaim of the profession as well as a recognition of his leadership by both government and opposition.

Yet he possessed talents which would have enabled him to succeed in any career of his choice. In youth he was an accomplished violinist and had contemplated music as a profession; he stayed with surgery because, he was wont to remark, a surgeon could enjoy music as a relaxation but a musician could hardly undertake surgery as a hobby.

As a hard-working medical student he still found time to play cricket for the Surrey County Second XI and on a memorable occasion scored a double century at the Oval while preparing for the stiffest examinations. Golf came easily to him, chess was a fascinating contest, but bridge was a more serious business which brought him contact with the political world. He partnered Iain McLeod on occasions and Harold Lever regularly, playing for England and later for the House of Lords.

In retirement he took up painting with his customary success, maintaining at the same time his expertise in numismatics and opera. In all these fields he was driven by the urge to excel and although in public his ambition was decently cloaked, it was never entirely concealed.

His father, Dr Edwin Smith, was a south London coroner, his mother a professional violinist, and it is hardly surprising therefore that medicine and music engaged his early interests. He was educated at Westminster School, an experience which he greatly enjoyed, although he left early after a row with the headmaster about an intended performance at the Chelsea Music Festival. He crossed the river to St Thomas's for his medical training, conceiving there an admiration for Philip Michiner, a forthright and plain-spoken surgeon whose impish sense of humour was to provide an endless source of anecdotes for later after-dinner speeches.

Smith qualified MB BS London in 1937 but the sudden death of his father prevented him from taking the unpaid resident posts at St Thomas's to which his student achievements would have entitled him. Instead he took a salaried House Surgeoncy at a less prestigious hospital and went into a general practice in Wimbledon. He kept a contact with surgery at the local hospital however and after two years and at the minimum age he passed the examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons.

At this time he married Judy Rodwell by whom, after the Second World War, he was to have a family of three sons and one daughter. In 1939 he was appointed surgical registrar at the Middlesex Hospital, then staffed by an outstanding group of general surgeons. Senior amongst these was Sir Alfred, later Lord, Webb Johnson PRCS, who first impressed on him the prestige and the importance of the Royal College of Surgeons as something more than an examining body. From then on the college was to be the focus of his ambitions.

In 1941 he joined the RAMC and gained the MS London in uniform.

He contemplated music as a profession but stayed with surgery because, he was wont to remark, a surgeon could enjoy music, but a musician could hardly undertake surgery as a hobby

As a surgical specialist he served in North Africa, Yugoslavia and Italy, being wounded at Anzio. War surgery provided for him the indispensable practical experience required for the development of technical excellence in the operating theatre and shortly after demobilisation he was in 1946 appointed as Consultant Surgeon to St George's Hospital in London.

That well-known hospital at Hyde Park Corner was often regarded as the base from which to build a private practice in the most fashionable part of London but Smith made it the most famous centre in Britain for the treatment of major biliary and pancreatic disorders, with a reputation which rivalled that of his friend Dick Cattell in Boston.

He was a prolific author in books and surgical journals and a hard-working editor of multi-volume standard texts. His eight-volume *Operative Surgery* (1956-57), written and edited in co-operation with Charles Roh of St Mary's, was particularly successful.

His popularity as a lecturer brought him many invitations to centres abroad and a spell as a Visiting Professor in Sydney gained him an Honorary Fellowship in the Royal Australasia College. Unhappily, married life in Wimbledon could not survive this whirl of activity and after a period of separation he was divorced in 1971, then marrying Susan Fry, who was to care for him in his later years.

The busy life of travel and practice did not divert him from his objective in the Royal College of Surgeons which he was determined to serve first in humble, later in the most prestigious, capacity. He gained the Jacksonian Prize in 1951; he delivered Hunterian Professorial Lectures in 1947 and 1952, and he took the post of Penrose May Tutor to organise clinical surgery courses for postgraduates.

In 1962 he was appointed to the Court of Examiners and in 1965 elected to the Council. He was asked to become Dean of the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, an enterprise run jointly by the College and London University, where he proved to be popular with both the staff and students. The institute thrived under his administration. There could never be any doubt that he would become President, but due to the death in office in 1973 of Edward Muir, he achieved that position earlier than expected.

Smith was an outstanding President, combining management skills with a proper regard for ceremonial and an agreeable affability on social occasions. He could of course be a hard task-master and intolerant of weakness or failure but his zeal in the promotion of the high status of the college, paralleling his own ambitions, was unfaltering. His influence on the profession was far-reaching, he had a wide circle of acquaintances but few intimate friends.

His position and his acknowledged technical prowess brought him numberless invitations to be guest professor or eponymous lecturer; he received Gold Medals and no less than nine honorary fellowships, all of which he received with aplomb. (He and Lord Porritt were was the only people ever to receive honorary fellowships from all the English-speaking Colleges of Surgeons – in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ireland, Australasia, Canada, South Africa, and the United States.)

In 1975 he was appointed KBE and was clearly marked out for a role in national affairs, but the state of the NHS soon brought serious problems for the profession. Barbara Castle, Minister of Health in the incoming Labour Government, harboured an ill-concealed dislike of doctors and was determined to create a whole-time salaried hospital service, eliminating the private beds in the NHS hospitals which Bevan had allowed in 1948 to secure the co-operation of the consultants.

The matter came to a head with a strike by hospital domestic staff unions aimed at ousting private practice from the NHS and the BMA reacted by calling for a work-to-rule by consultants. Smith and his fellow college presidents played an important part in defusing the crisis, not by overt political action nor by following Moran's example in Bevan's time of direct opposition to the BMA, but by behind-the-scenes diplomacy. Barbara Castle was in fact agreeably surprised by her meetings with the college presidents and quiet negotiation, in conjunction with Lord Goodman as mediator, ended the confrontation with a compromise on private beds and consultant contracts.

As Sir Rodney Smith he was reluctant to demit office as President (presidents had to step down after a maximum of three years) and had some support for continuation, but the college council decided that their constitution must be upheld and his successor was elected in 1977. In the following year however he took on the presidency of the Royal Society of Medicine, at that time in some turmoil, which he was able to resolve.

In 1978 he was elected a Life Peer, as Lord Smith, and was at first able to play an active part in the debates (as well as the bridge team) of the House of Lords. However in 1981 he suffered a severe stroke which rendered him partially paralysed and speechless although mentally little impaired. The recovery of his voice was a triumph of re-education and in a large measure due to the tireless attention of his second wife.

He was never to regain fluency sufficient for participation in debate – though he spoke on medical matters in the House of Lords – but he was well able to compete at the bridge table or on the chess board and he spent increasingly rewarding time at his easel.

David Innes Williams

Smith painted by George Bruce — Royal College of Surgeons of England

Rodney Smith, physician and surgeon: born London 10 May 1914; Surgeon RAMC 1941-45; appointed Surgeon, St George's Hospital 1946; Penrose May Tutor in Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons 1957-63, Dean, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences 1966-71, Member, Court of Examiners 1963-69, Chairman 1969, Member of Council 1965-78, President of Council 1973-77; KBE 1975; created 1978 Baron Smith; married 1938 Judy Rodwell (three sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1971), 1971 Susan Fry; died London 1 July 1998.

Tazio Secchiaroli

TAZIO SECCHIAROLI was the original "paparazzo".

In Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* (1960), he provided the model for Paparazzo (played by Walter Santesso), the photographer sidekick of Marcello Mastroianni as the journalist. And his tales and photographs provided the inspiration for several events in the film, including the "orgy scene", modelled on Secchiaroli's pictures of the striptease by Aiche Nana, and Anita Ekberg's frolic in the Trevi fountain, inspired by the almost identical photographs shot by Pierluigi Praturlon.

Back in the Fifties, favourable exchange rates attracted scores of American film productions to Rome's Cinecittà studios and Rome was known as "Hollywood on the Tiber". In those days, Secchiaroli belonged to a group of street photographers who made a living taking pictures of the American movie stars who lived in the Excelsior Hotel and hung out at the sidewalk cafes on the Via Veneto and the night-clubs nearby.

He and his colleagues, who included Pierluigi Praturlon, Elio Sorci, Sergio Spinelli, and a number of other "youngsters", created a new genre of news photography after they discovered that magazine editors would pay more for "action" photographs of the stars. Until then, magazines had used formal portraits or carefully staged photographs of shot under controlled conditions on the set. The Roman photographers changed all that by chasing the stars through Rome on their Lambrettas and Vespas, and by going to great lengths to capture them in awkward poses and compromising situations.

According to Secchiaroli, it all started by chance, "because the Americans brought their own photographers to the set. There was no work there for us, so we had no choice but to try and get some shots on the fly, outside their hotels."

"We photographers were poor starving devils and they had it all: money, fame, and fancy hotels," Secchiaroli remembered, "so the doormen and porters in the big hotels gave us hot tips. You could call it the fellowship of the proletariat."

In reality, the Roman photographers often received tips from the press agents working for the studios or the stars, who realised that these photo reportages were extremely popular with the Italian, French and American magazines and provided valuable free publicity.

Secchiaroli (left) and Luciano Mellace, a photographer for Reuters, at work on a Lambretta in 1952 — Photograph: EPA

Secchiaroli and his comrades carried out their raids with commando-like tactics that earned them the nickname of *fotografi d'assalto* – "assault photographers". Equipped with Rolleiflexes and flashguns, the Romans would hunt for their prey in small groups of two or three. One of them, acting as a decoy, would approach to within a few feet of the target and take a couple of quick shots, blasting away with his flashgun. The purpose of this tactic was to provoke the startled prey into action. More often than not, it would achieve its desired effect; while one of the stars attempted to block or pursue the photographer to snatch away his film, the other members of the team would capture the scene in detail from a safe distance.

As one of the "youngsters", Rino Barillari, pointed out, it was worth risking a few licks for the money; if the going rate for a picture of a male star on his own was 5000 lire, a picture of the same celebrity with a female companion was worth L60,000, while a set of photographs that included a scuffle could fetch at least L300,000 or more.

Secchiaroli recalled many years later: "We didn't bait anyone, but I came from Centocelle [the working class quarter in Rome where he lived all his life] and it made me angry to think that an ordinary Italian – if he was lucky enough to have a job – would have to work for months to earn the money these people would spend in a single night."

Secchiaroli made his reputation and earned the nickname "Bounty Killer" in a single night. In the early hours of the morning of 15 August 1958, or Ferragosto, as the Feast day of the Assumption is called in Italy, roaming around the deserted streets of Rome, he and his companions stumbled upon King Farouk of Egypt, sitting at a table of the Café de Paris on the Via Veneto. The deposed king was in the company of his bodyguards and two young ladies, the Neapolitan singer Irma Capece Minutolo and her sister Ada.

When Secchiaroli walked up and started blasting away with his flashgun, the usually good-natured king lost his temper and grabbed Secchiaroli, trying to break his camera. The scene was captured by Uberto Guidotti, a freelancer who worked for Secchiaroli's Roma's Press Photos agency, which he had co-founded with Sergio Spinelli.

Shortly afterwards, a couple of blocks further down the Via Veoeto, Secchiaroli and his companions snapped a few quick shots of the actor Anthony Franciosa sitting with Ava Gardner inside the Brick Top night-club. Franciosa, at that time still married to the actress Shelley Winters, lunged at the photographers and caught one of them, but this time Secchiaroli got away unscathed.

Finally, on the way back to his nearby office, Secchiaroli discovered Anita Ekberg in the midst of a heated argument with her husband, Anthony Steel. Annoyed by the flashes, Steel helped his wife into a car and then attacked the photographers.

Several Italian magazines turned that night's happenings into a national event by devoting ample space to the photographs and detailed accounts of the three episodes.

Secchiaroli obtained his next big scoop the following November when, following up on a tip, he documented an impromptu striptease by the Turkish starlet Aiche Nana in the Rugantino nightclub in Trastevere. A major scandal ensued after the publication of these pictures once it became apparent that the enthusiastic audience surrounding the young starlet consisted entirely of prominent members of the Roman aristocracy.

The photographs of Rome's extravagant nightlife greatly impressed Federico Fellini, who was beginning the preparation of his new film that was to include scenes of Rome's café society. Fellini met with Secchiaroli on numerous occasions and wanted to know everything about the photographers' work habits; he even demanded to be taken on several guided tours of their favourite haunts around the Via Veneto.

Fellini gave at least three different versions of how the name "Paparazzo" was chosen. Once he said the name recalled the name of a classmate called Paparazzi, another time he said it was the name of an electrician on the set of the film, on a third he said it was meant to bring to mind "a buzzing insect, hovering, darting, stinging". According to Ennio Flaiano, the co-author with Fellini of *La Dolce Vita*'s screenplay, the name belonged to an innkeeper called Paparazzo in a book by George Gissing, *By the Ionian Sea*.

Whatever its true origin, ever since, the term "paparazzo" has been synonymous with the pesky, cunning photographers who pursue the rich and famous.

During the shooting of *La Dolce Vita*, Secchiaroli became a good friend of Fellini's, and henceforth, starting with *8½* in 1963, worked as his principal set photographer. He also worked for 30 years as the personal photographer for Marcello Mastroianni and Sophia Loren.

Although he only worked as a paparazzo for a brief period in his long career, Secchiaroli never reneged on his past. Last year, after the death of Princess Diana in a car crash in Paris with Dodi Fayed, while attempting to flee from a group of French photographers on motorcycles, he was shocked but defended the paparazzi who, he believed, were being unfairly accused of causing the fatal accident.

"In our day it was different. There was one, two or three of us on a hunt for pictures. Perhaps today there are too many. In my day we would have never reached this point. At the most there were small fistfights and skirmishes."

"I can't understand how someone could risk their life to flee from photographers," he said. "I don't see why people in the public eye should try to run away from paparazzi. At a certain point they should just let themselves be photographed and move on." He recalled how Marcello Mastroianni once wanted to be alone with Catherine Deneuve, so "He called me and I made five or six sets of photographs. That way all the newspapers had what they wanted and no one else bothered him."

After the deaths in recent years of Federico Fellini, his wife Giulietta Masina, and especially Marcello Mastroianni and other close friends, Secchiaroli became very depressed.

Even though in Italy his photographs were well known and his work had been the subject of several academic dissertations, he never sought a place in the limelight. When he died he had just finished working on a book of his photographs, due to be published this September by the Italian publishing house Motta.

Wolfgang Achtner

Tazio Secchiaroli, photographer: born Rome 26 November 1925; married (one son, one daughter); died Rome 24 July 1998.

هكذا من الاصل

Bernard Sandler

BERNARD SANDLER was at the same time a pioneering businessman, an imaginative theatrical producer and supporter of innovative, fringe British theatre, a continual traveller around the world and a perceptive modern art collector.

At the root of all his activities was a keen and searching intellect, a curiosity about politics and the nature of justice, and, above all, great personal warmth – most evident in his characteristic assured smile.

He came from an exceptionally close-knit northern Jewish family. His father, Hyman, born in a small town in Latvia, came to Yorkshire in 1893, aged 17, to escape the inevitable call-up into the Tsar's brutalising army; within a few years he was manager of a leading clothing factory. Hyman and his female cousin went on to marry a sister and brother whose surname was Hurst. In the mid-1920s, the two couples formed their own clothing company, Hurst and Sandler – Bernard's mother, Celia, was a talented designer – which quickly blossomed.

In 1946, Bernard Sandler joined the company. By 1968, when it was sold to the giant firm United Drapery Stores, it employed over 800 people in five northern department stores and numerous shops.

During Bernard's teenage years, two extraordinary journeys abroad opened his eyes to stark mid-20th century realities, both to the injustices that abounded and the potential everywhere for human reconciliation and reconstruction. In 1937, he travelled with his father by train across Europe – and, most disturbingly, via Berlin – to the paternal family home in the small town of Ludza in Latvia. It was a return for the family to the Yiddish-speaking *shtetl*, to tea from a polished brass samovar and a feast of home-made bread, herrings, boiled fish, pickled cucumbers, cheeses and cakes, joyfully shared with his grandmother, uncles, aunts and cousins.

The menfolk attended the local synagogue in what Sandler recalled as "an atmosphere of wonderful warmth and affection". He also remembered the vibrant weekly horsefair and food stalls in the market square, to which the men, wearing high boots and caps, arrived by *droshky* (horse and cart). The family in Ludza were sceptical about moving to England, believing that in relatively prosperous, independent Latvia, there was less of a chance of war. Sandler's paternal grandmother, an aunt and two cousins survived the Second World War in Siberian exile; his two uncles died fighting in the Red Army; the rest of the family in Latvia perished in the Holocaust.

The West Yorkshire Playhouse, in Leeds: Sandler chaired the committee which oversaw its foundation in 1970 as the Leeds Playhouse *Photograph: Ross Parry*

Two years later, Sandler embarked on another dramatic trip. After a tour of Quebec, Montreal and the Niagara Falls, the group of English schoolboys with whom he was holidaying arrived in New York – a day after war had been declared in Britain. Sandler had to stay on in America, living with an academic teaching couple whose radical, socialist views stirred him up and made him start questioning the status quo.

He later recalled, with ironical understatement, "living in New York was obviously so different from life in Leeds". Just before Christmas 1939, he went with two other Leeds Grammar School pupils to hear Louis Armstrong and his orchestra in a Broadway supper club. "Listening to the jazz, with its swings and improvisations, I understood the fusion of the Western and African worlds in America," he later said. "It was beautiful music."

Paying his way through a course at New York University by working as a shoe salesman and a Catskills hotel busboy, he met Taube Barash, a talented art student, whom he was to marry in 1945. Together, they saw all the great theatrical stars perform on Broadway, listened to jazz in Greenwich Village clubs and were thrilled by the burgeoning modernist art world of 1940s New York.

After being drafted into the US Army in 1943, Sandler returned to Europe on a convoy ship in September 1944. He was wounded fighting in Normandy, and sent to an American hospital in Britain where he was reunited with his family whom he had not seen for almost five years. In 1946, he and Taube settled in Leeds.

After the family business was sold in 1968, he moved to London and joined the Board of United Drapery Stores, where he headed the Allder's store group, and was a pioneer in establishing discount, out-of-town and airport duty-free shopping in Britain. He retired from UDS at the age of 53 in 1975.

His love of art – which he shared with his wife, who died in 1981 – brought him close friendships with painters such as Jacob Kramer in Leeds and Alfred Cohen in London, and he helped many artist friends build up their careers. He and his wife's shared passion for the theatre led him to become involved in the development of some key British theatres.

In the 1960s, he joined the Leeds Playhouse Trust Committee as its Chairman. Astonishingly, though the city councils in Nottingham and Sheffield had recently built new and costly theatres, Leeds City Council refused to co-operate – financially or in any other way – with a similar local venture. Working closely with figures such as Alec Baron, who became the theatre administrator, and Leeds University architect Bill Haughton Evans, Sandler helped bring the project to a successful conclusion, and Leeds Playhouse was duly opened in September 1970 with the production of Alan Plater's *Simon Says*; a late-night film section was opened by the silent film star Harold Lloyd. The theatre now thrives as the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

After retiring, Sandler devoted much time to supporting fringe theatres. He was Chairman of the Board of the Theatre Royal in Stratford East, London, and recently Chairman of the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn, north London. An energetic theatre and film-goer himself (typically, he saw a number of films and plays each week – both in London and New York, where he spent part of each year), he was proud that the Tricycle was, as he described it, "a fringe theatre that had achieved economic stability, carrying on a programme of first-class productions". He was also an independent theatre producer – his West End successes including *Steaming*, *Pack of Lies* and *The Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾* – and a director of the theatrical production company H.M. Tennent Ltd.

Philip Vann

Carl Bernard Sandler, businessman and theatre producer: born Leeds 18 October 1922; married 1945 Taube Barash (died 1981; one son, one daughter); died London 6 June 1998.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES

JOHN BECK

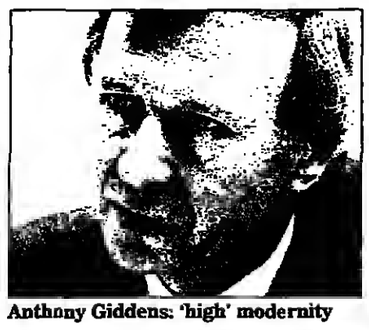
Unreal retrospects and false dawns

THOSE WHO repeatedly urge a restoration of traditional Christian teaching and family values in modern Britain are destined to see only a succession of false dawns. Cultural restoration is no longer a realistic option as we move into a new millennium. Notwithstanding the recent success of traditionalists in derailing the Bill to equalise the age of consent for homosexuals and heterosexuals, the underlying project of restoring a nationwide consensus around so-called traditional values is unviable.

In part it is unattainable because, at least in the form that some like to imagine it, such a "better past" never really existed. Those who lament, in George Carey's words, "the loss of the sense of shared values that used to bind us together" recurrently exaggerate the extent of social and cultural integration in our national history. And the counterpart of this simplifying myth is an equally exaggerated view that today's young people have lost their moral bearings and are cast adrift on a sea of relativism.

Almost all commentators agree that the technologically advanced societies of both West and East are experiencing unprecedentedly radical and irreversible changes which do indeed have deep and inescapable implications for the way we live our lives. However, before we can develop an adequate educational response, we need to be clearer about both the nature and causes of this social transformation. The intriguingly convergent work of the British social theorist Anthony Giddens and the German sociologist Ulrich Beck provide some useful signposts. It is important to appreciate that both these writers are critical of the fashionable view (which traditionalists are reacting against) that we now inhabit a postmodern world of almost unfettered social and cultural diversity, freed from any significant epistemological constraints or criteria of value. But these writers do contend that contemporary societies are in transition towards what Giddens calls "late" or "high" modernity.

According to this analysis, a key source of contemporary social change is precisely the continuing importance of rationality and the accumulation of expert knowledge. Even more significant is the fact that this knowledge is no longer confined within



Anthony Giddens: 'high' modernity

"expert" contexts. Rather, it "leaks" back into everyday life and becomes a basis for ongoing critical interrogation of previously taken-for-granted beliefs. In other words, knowledge has become reflexively organised. Proliferating sources of information promote increasing self-questioning and challenges to authority. A further and closely related consequence is "detraditionalisation". As Giddens has pointed out, this does not mean that tradition is dead: practices previously sanctioned by tradition may still be capable of justification – but, and this is the point, "only in the light of knowledge that is not itself authenticated by tradition".

The pace of change is further increased by the phenomenon of "globalisation". This includes not only the familiar facts of global financial markets, transnational corporations, etc, but also the development of an increasingly cosmopolitan cultural sphere, including increasingly transnational communities of taste, lifestyle and belief.

Such radical developments pose a whole array of educational challenges – and no panaceas exist. However, it seems clear that worthwhile forms of moral and social education must respect cultural and value diversity, regard tolerance as more than a negative virtue, and employ methods of teaching and learning that involve dialogue while preserving a clear commitment to reason and evidential teaching.

John Beck is the author of 'Morality and Citizenship in Education' (Cassell, £45 / £16.99)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

SYROP: Konrad, OBE, on 25 July, aged 83, peacefully, at home, after a short illness. Husband of the late Sara, journalist, author and good friend. He was much loved and will be greatly missed by Helen and Roy, Mary and Dave, Barbara and Gerald, Alan and Ann, and his fourteen grandchildren. Private funeral, no flowers, donations to Help the Aged.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh give a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace for delegates attending the Lambeth Conference: **The Duke of York** also attends. **The Duke of Edinburgh**, Master, attends the Quarterly Court Meeting and Lunch at Trinity House, London EC3. **The Prince of Wales** visits Cannon Farm and Sychtyn Farm, Llanerfyl, Powys; opens a new building at Rachel's Dairy, Glan-yr-Afon Industrial Estate, Aberystwyth; and visits the ADAS Pwllpeiran Research Centre, Aberystwyth.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at **Horse Guards**, 11am; **1st Battalion Coldstream Guards** mounts the Queen's Guard, at **Buckingham Palace**, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Graham Able, Master, Dulwich College, 51; Dr Baruch Blumberg, former Master of Balliol College, Oxford, 73; Professor Brian Clarkson, former Principal, University College of Swansea, 68; Professor Sir Frederick Crawford, Chairman, Criminal Cases Review Commission, 67; Professor Robert Curran, pathologist, 77; Sir Kenneth Durham, former chairman, Kingfisher, 74; Mr Alberto Fujimori, President of Peru, 60; Mr Ian Grant, Chairman, Scottish Tourist Board, 55; Mr Robert Henderson, former chairman, Ulster Television, 69; Mr Keith Hill MP, 55; Sir Gerald Hosker, former HM Procurator General, 65; Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of the Air Staff, 59; Mr Brian Johnson, former chief constable, Lancashire, 66; Lord Russell-Johnston, former MP, 66; Mr Ian McCaskill, television weatherman, 60; Mr Neil McKendrick, Master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, 63; Dame Rosemary Murray, former Vice-Chancellor, Cambridge University, 85; Mr Riccardo Muti, conductor, 57; Sir David Naish, President, National Farmers' Union, 58; Mr David Pearson, former deputy chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings, 67; Judge Malcolm Potter, circuit judge, 66; Sir Garry Sobers, cricketer, 62; Miss Prunella Stack, president, Women's League of Health and Beauty, 84; Mr Murray Stuart, chairman, Scottish Power, 65; Mr Phil Walker, editor, *Daily Star*, 54.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Jacopo Sannazaro, poet, 1456; Henry Glapthorne, playwright, 1610; Ludwig Andreas Feuerbach, philosopher, 1804; Charles Lucas, cellist, organist, conductor and composer, 1808; John Stuart Blackie, classical scholar, 1809; Giulia Grisi, soprano, 1811; Henri-Joseph Harpignies, landscape painter, 1819; Gerard Manley Hopkins, poet, 1844; Helen Beatrix Potter, writer and illustrator, 1866; Marcel Duchamp, Surrealist painter, 1887; Marie Löhr, actress, 1890; Rudy (Hubert Prior) Vallee, singer, 1901; Professor Sir Karl Raimund Popper, philosopher, 1902; Clarence Malcolm Bodeo Lowry, novelist, 1909; John Thomson Stonehouse, former Postmaster General, 1925; Jacqueline Onassis (Jacqueline Lee Bouvier), publisher, and widow of President John Kennedy and of Aristotle Onassis, 1929.

Deaths: Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, Chancellor to King Henry VIII, executed 1540; John Speed, historian and cartographer, 1629; Savinieo de Cyrano de Bergerac, poet and soldier, 1655; Abraham Cowley, poet, 1667; Antonio Lucio Vivaldi, priest, composer and violinist, 1741; Johann Sebastian Bach, composer, 1750; Georges Couthon, French revolutionary, executed 1794; Maximilien-François Marie-Isidore de Robespierre, French revolutionary leader, executed 1794; Louis-Antoine Léon-Florelle de Richebourg de St Just, French revolutionary leader, executed 1794; Nathan Mayer Rothschild, banker, 1836; Mortimer Collins, poet and novelist, 1876; Sir Moses Haim Montefiore, philanthropist and centenarian, 1885; Vyacheslav Konstantinovich Plehve, Russian Minister of the Interior, assassinated 1904; William James Mayo, surgeon and co-founder of the Mayo Clinic, 1939; Otto Hahn, nuclear physicist, 1944; Margot (Emma Alice Margaret) Asquith, writer, 1945; Frank Loesser, popular composer and lyricist, 1969.

On this day: the Roman emperor Maximus was defeated near Aquileia by the Byzantine emperor Theodosius I, 388; potatoes were first brought to England from Colombia, 1586; the Battle of Warsaw began, when Charles X of Sweden invaded Poland, 1656; the Forth and Clyde Canal was opened, 1790; the British under Arthur Wellesley defeated the French at the Battle of Talavera, 1809; Peru declared its independence from Spain, 1821; in the United States, the 14th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, 1868; Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, 1914; the IXth Olympic Games opened in Amsterdam, 1928; the 34,000-ton Cunard-White Star liner *Mauretania* was launched at Cammell-Laird's yard at Birkenhead, 1938; in New York, a B-25 bomber crashed into the tower of the Empire State Building, setting the building ablaze and killing 13, 1945; Edward Heath became leader of the Conservative Party, 1965; an earthquake took place in the Tangshan area of China, with more than 800,000 deaths, 1976.

Today is the Feast Day of St Botvid, Saints Nazarius and Celsus and St Samson of Dol.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Ghislaine Kenyon, "Music (iv): Valentin de Boulogne, *The Four Ages of Man*", 1pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Jan Ross-Munro, "British Furniture Design (I)", 2pm.
British Museum: Carolyn Perry, "Living in Egypt: ancient, Mameluke and modern household objects", 11.30am.

LUNCHEONS

Association of Foreign Affairs Journalists
The Israeli Ambassador, Mr Dror Zeigerman, was guest of honour at a lunch held yesterday by the Association of Foreign Affairs Journalists at the National Liberal Club, London SW1. Mr Jonathan Fryer, President of the Association, was in the chair.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Paul Adamson, Team Vicar, North Tyne and Redesdale Team with special responsibility for Falstone, Thorneyburn and Greystead, and World Development Coordinator (Newcastle): to be also Rural Dean of Bellingham (same diocese).
The Rev Paul Baker, Team Vicar, Jarrow (Durham): to be Vicar, Sunderland Pennywell St Thomas (same diocese).
The Rev Stephen Cope, Vicar, Rudston with Boynton and Kilham (York): to be also Rural Dean of Bridlington (same diocese).
The Rev Bill Day, Rector, Greetham with Empeton and Hawkley with Priors Dean (Portsmouth): to be Vicar, Titchfield St Peter (same diocese).
The Rev Jonathan Falkner, Rector, South Elmham and Ilketshall, and Rural Dean of Beccles and South Elmham (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich): to be also Honorary Canon of the Cathedral Church of St James, Bury St Edmunds (same diocese).
The Rev David Hodgson, Vicar, Middlesbrough Ascension (York): to be also Rural Dean of Middlesbrough (same diocese).
The Rev David Lowe, Vicar, Leiston (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be also Honorary Canon of the Cathedral Church of St James, Bury St Edmunds (same diocese).
The Rev Arthur Middleton, Rector, Boldon (Durham): to be also Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral (same diocese).
Canon Nigel Stock, Team Rector, North Shields, and Rural Dean of Tynemouth, and Honorary Canon of Newcastle Cathedral (Newcastle): to be Residentiary Canon of Durham Cathedral (Durham).
The Rev Frank Willett, Vicar, Chesterfield St Augustine (Derby): to be Industrial Chaplain, Derbyshire Ecumenical Partnership (same diocese).
The Rev April Richards, Priest-in-Charge, Blackmoor St Matthew (Portsmouth): to be Vicar, Blackmoor (same diocese).

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Stuart Laing, to be British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.
Mr David Ridgway, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba.
Mr Norman John Rose and **Mr Paul Richard Francis**, to be Surveyor Members of the Lands Tribunal.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

English court need not stay proceedings

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

28 JULY 1998

Davy International and others v Voest Alpine Industrieanlagenblau GmbH and others

(Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Mummery and Sir John Knox) 17 July 1998

WHERE PROCEEDINGS between the same parties and involving the same cause of action had been commenced in the English court and the Austrian court before the Lugano Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, set out in Schedule 3(c) to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, had come into effect between the two states, the English court was not required by the Convention to stay proceedings against defendants domiciled in Austria.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of Austrian defendants to an action commenced in England, against a decision that the English court was not required to stay the proceedings.

The English plaintiffs issued a writ against English defendants on 28 May 1996. In July 1996 leave was granted to amend the writ to join Austrian defendants and to serve the proceedings on them out of the jurisdiction. The amended proceedings were served in Austria on the Austrian defendants on 1 and 2 August 1996.

A second writ involving the same cause of action was issued on 14 June 1996, against the Austrian defendants only. It was served on 19 June but, since leave to serve out of the jurisdiction had neither been sought nor obtained, the writ and service thereof were set aside on under RSC Order 12 rule 8.

On 5 July 1996 the Austrian defendants commenced proceedings in the Commercial Court of Vienna. Two of the defendants to those proceedings were plaintiffs in the English actions. The English plaintiffs challenged the jurisdiction of the Austrian court.

The judge held that the decision of the European Court of Justice in *Von Horn v Cinnamond* (Case C-163/95) [1997] All ER (EC) 913 should not be extended to a case such as the present. In *Von Horn* it had been held that the San Sebastian Convention, which was similarly worded to the Lugano Convention, applied to a case where proceedings in one contracting state had been brought before the coming into force of the Convention, and further proceedings involving the same cause and between the same parties had been brought in the other contracting state after it had come into force.

He held, further, that Article 54(1) of the Lugano Convention, which provided that the Convention should apply only to legal proceedings instituted after its entry into force in the state of origin, did not apply to the present case since all the proceedings had been instituted before the entry into force on 1 September 1996 of the Convention between the United Kingdom and Austria. Accordingly, Article 21 of the Convention did not require the English courts to stay the proceedings instituted in England and served on the Austrian defendants. The Austrian defendants appealed.

Jonathan Sumption QC and Adrian Briggs (Travers Smith Braithwaite) for the Austrian defendants; Peter Gross QC (Linklaters & Paines) for the English plaintiffs.

Lord Justice Mummery said that Title IV of the Lugano Convention contained transitional provisions governing the transition in contracting states from the pre-Lugano Convention world to the post-Lugano Convention regime.

The purpose of Article 54 in Title IV was to place limitations on the application of the new regime to specified situations potentially affected by the process of legal transition, and the language of Article 54(1) expressly attributed legal significance, in the context of the applicability of the Convention, to the time of commencement of legal proceedings.

In the present case there were no proceedings which had been instituted after the Convention had come into force to which the Convention could apply. The position contended for by the Austrian defendants could only be achieved by rewriting Article 54(1), depriving the reference to the time of institution of the proceedings of all significance, and the first paragraph of Art 54 of all practical content as a transition measure.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

chocolate, n.

THE IMPORTANT thing, etymologically speaking, about *chocolate* is not to confuse your *chocolatl* with your *cacauatl*. The first is an Aztec word meaning an article of food made from mixing seeds of *cacao* with those of the *pochotl* tree; the latter was a drink made from *cacao*. The word *chocolatl* appears to have had no connection with *cacao*, but to be a radical word of the Nahuatl language.

The Europeans, in their usual muddled way, confused the two and used *chocolate* to mean the drink. The English made matters worse by muddling up the vowels in *cacao* and calling it *cocoa*.

G.K. Chesterton got it right when he wrote:

Tea, although an Oriental,
Is a gentleman at least;
Cocoa is a cad and coward,
Cocoa is a vulgar beast.

THE TUESDAY REVIEW
The Independent July 1998

In the second part of our series, **Diana Appleyard** offers more ideas for days out

School's out – and the fun begins for parents

Elaine Hunter's children enjoy playing in their large back garden – but they also have regular days out to theme parks and activity centres *John Laurence*

YOUNG CHILDREN

"ONE OF the best things about having a pre-school child," says Elaine Hunter, from Aylesbury, a mother of three, "is that their nurseries carry on throughout the summer."

For two days a week, two-year-old Olivia continues to attend her Cuddles Club nursery – leaving Elaine with her two sons, five-year-old Alex and seven-year-old George. She says, "We have a big trampoline in the back garden and a quad bike they love – and I find I can get some work done at home with Olivia out of the way." Since she works from home, Elaine employs a local teenager for a couple of hours a day to mind the children.

The aim is to take all of the children out at least one day a week with her husband Andy, who runs the farm. "The children love all the usual theme parks and activity centres," says Elaine. "Legoland is a great favourite, as is the Cotswold Wildlife Park." But with three children and lunch to pay for, it is not a cheap option.

"A day out can easily cost £100," she says. "The rest of the week they'll be playing at home."

The children have a large back garden and all the acres of the farm to play in. Elaine has also organised for George to spend one week at the Camp Adventure at The Springs leisure centre in nearby Princes Risborough. She says with activities such as football and swimming, it is a bargain at £9 per day. Elaine says, "My aim is to give them all some individual time this holidays – and I'm keen to keep up their reading and writing. We'll be spending at least an hour every day doing 'schoolwork', because I don't want them to fall behind. By the end of the holiday I'll be on my knees. But I do want to think they've had a really good time – and not just spent the entire holiday in front of the TV."

DAYS OUT

■ Dinosaur Museum, Dorchester, Dorset. Great for a wet day on holiday. Life-size reconstructions of dinosaurs, CD-rom displays and audio-visual demonstrations. Open all year. adults £3.50, children (4-16) £2.25, family ticket £9.95.

■ National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth. Take a journey through the oceans, touch pools and Caribbean reef, complete with sharks. Adults £6.50, children (4-16) £3.99, family ticket £17.99.

■ Legoland, Windsor. Rides and interactive computer attractions. Adults £16, children (3-15) £13.

■ Bekonscot Model Village, Buckinghamshire. Oldest model village in the world. Ideal for under-12s. Adults £3.60, children £1.80, family ticket £10.

■ Cotswold Wildlife Park. Wonderful zoo; be prepared to walk a fair way. Adults £5.50, children £3.50.

■ Drusillas Park, Alfriston, East Sussex. Lovely zoo for small children. Adults £6.35, children £5.25.

■ Thorpe Park, Chertsey, Surrey. Another popular theme park. Again, this is pricey. Adults £16.50, children under 14, £13. Plan Ahead Super Saver, £12.50 per person for groups of 4-11 (ring 0990 880880 ,24 hours in advance of your visit).

■ Natural History Museum, London. New Earth Gallery, open from July 16. Adults £6, children (5-17) £3, family ticket (two adults and up to four children) £16.

■ Cadbury'a World, Birmingham. Chocolate-lovers' paradise. Adults £6.25, children (4-15) £4.50, family tickets £18.60. Advance bookings only. 0121 451 4159.

■ Alton Towers. Adults £19.50, children £15.50, family ticket £59. Special themed Beatrix Potter area for young children new this year.

■ Eureka! Museum for Children. One of the top interactive science museums. Adults £5.25, children (3-12) £4.25, family ticket (2+2) £16.95.

■ Knowsley Safari Park, Merseyside. £12 per car.

■ The Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys. Most suitable for children aged six and over. Children's theatre, workshops and planetary journeys. Adults £5.50, children (5-18) £2.75, family ticket £15.50.

■ St Andrews Sea Life Centre, Scotland. More than 30 spectacular marine habitats including a seal display. Adults £4.35, children (4-15) £3.35.

SPORTY CHILDREN

Jenny Webster has booked her two children – 10-year-old Katie and nine-year-old Tom – into tennis camp. "Katie is already quite a strong player and Tom is getting quite good," says Jenny, who works part time as a theatre nurse at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, near to their Great Haseley home. "Neither of them particularly wants me to work during the summer, but I want to keep up the continuity of my job," says Jenny. On the days she is working, she makes elaborate plans including driving to Leamington Spa the night before to deliver the children to her mother, and then making a two-hour round trip to pick them up.

"They both have bikes but I won't let them ride round the village on their own," she says. "It isn't safe." Katie, she says, is far easier to keep amused than Tom – she will play music, walk the dog, read and do the crossword; Tom has to be organised or he will slump in front of TV.

"What the holidays will mean is that I spend hours ferrying them around in the car to see friends, to go shopping, to get to their tennis lessons," she says. "I become a one-woman taxi service."

SPORT

A number of private schools run sporting courses over the summer – see local press for details. Leisure centres are a good source of cheap sports-based courses and workshops, from trampolining to soccer.
The Football Association (0171-262 4542).
The Lawn Tennis Association (0171-381 7000).
The England and Wales Cricketing Board (0171-432 1200).
UK Athletics '98 (0121-440 5000).

TEENAGERS

Older teenagers should be easy to look after in the holidays? Not necessarily so, says Chrissie Huckett-Joseph, who lives in London with her three children – 17-year-old Tobias, 15-year-old Dominic and 13-year-old Charlotte.

"I become a catering service," she says. "Dominic is the worst culprit, in that I'm always coming home and finding my house full of teenage boys. I don't mind cooking for them all if I'm not too tired, but sometimes it can be a bit of a trial."

Chrissie basically runs a hotel in the holidays. Tobias, her oldest, has secured himself a job coaching football at nearby Crystal Palace. Dominic will be in and out with his friends, playing football, swimming at the local Lido and running at the nearby track – he is a member of Belgrave Harriers.

Both boys will leave notes, or ring to say what time they are coming home, whether they need a packed lunch or how many friends they are planning to bring back with them for tea.

"Really, Charlotte is the only one I have to think about," Chrissie says, "but even she has reached the age when she'd far rather be with her friends than with me. I would actually like to go out and about with her this summer but she'd far rather be shopping in the West End with her friends. I feel as if my children don't need me at all this summer."

TEENAGERS (LONDON)

Most teenagers have a clear idea of what they want to do in the holidays. In the capital they are spoilt for choice.

One of the best sources of information is *Kids Out* family events magazine. It costs £1.75, and lists literally hundreds of things to do with children in the holidays. It is available from all good newsagents in London and the South-east and is published by Time Out. If you have difficulty in getting hold of a copy, call 0171-813 3000.

■ Playstation Skate Park, Ackland Road, W10 0181 969 4669.

This is a good place to hang out and in-line skate or ride a skateboard and eat burgers. £4 for four-hour session.

■ Space Rollercoaster Simulator. Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (0171-938 8000).

■ Namco Station, County Hall, Westminster, Bridge Road, London SE1 (0171-967 8000). The fastest dodgems in Europe.

■ Cyberia, 39 Whitfield Street, W1. Café and Internet. £4.80 for an hour (0171-681 4200).

Name the guilty staff in the NHS

Patients in hospital like staff to get their names right – but which name do you use? By **Anita Chaudhuri**

A STAY in an NHS hospital can sometimes be like a bad package holiday. First there is the nail-bitingly long wait before you get to check in. Then, once you are installed, there is nothing much to do except sit back and moan about the awful food. Finally, when you get home, you can't resist complaining to all your friends about how the conditions were not quite to your liking.

A Labour peer, Lord Stoddart, recently discharged from an NHS establishment, is certainly complaining, and not just to his nearest and dearest, either. He has written to the Health Minister, Baroness Jay, to protest, not about the food or waiting lists, but about NHS staff addressing him by his first name. He is now calling for this familiarity to be outlawed. Apparently, the former Spokesman for Energy in the Lords was appalled when nurses addressed him not as Right Honourable, or "mister", but as plain old David.

He has a point. The way we are addressed has an emotional resonance, particularly when, as hospital patients, we are at our most vulnerable. Calling someone by their first name implies a degree of intimacy, which is not always desirable.

No matter how many episodes of *ER* you have drooled over, when reality bites and you are trapped in your dodgiest pyjamas, wired up to an IV drip, you do not necessarily want to be on first-name terms with those in charge of your treatment.

"I don't mind nurses calling me by my first name," says Jill, who has recently spent several weeks in hospital during a problematic pregnancy. "You are lying there unable to get out of bed, the nurses are seeing the most intimate parts of you, so you feel close to them. But I didn't like it when a junior doctor came round and said 'Hello Jill, I'm Derek. That felt really weird, as if we were at a drinks party."

For patients on mixed-sex wards, where privacy is under even greater siege, the problem can be more acute. "I preferred to be called Mrs Doyle," said one recent patient in such a ward. "It put up some kind of barrier between me and the hospital world, and I liked that – I already felt that by being there and having the treatment, my whole self was being invaded by them. I wanted to hold on to something that was my own."

At the moment, it is up to individual hospitals to come up with their own policy on the problem. Many have formal guidelines stating that staff should find out the preferred form of address when a patient arrives and log it on their admission form. Others just leave it up to the individual, and that is when confusion can arise.

"Calling someone by their first name implies that you regard them with a certain amount of affection," says Dan, a doctor who recently spent time as a patient. "If you're addressed by your first name straightaway, it takes all meaning away from it. Personally, I would prefer to develop a certain rapport with the person."

As a patient, Dan found himself on the receiving end

Old-fashioned formality on the ward *Hulton Getty*

of NHS name-calling. "The surgeon addressed me as Doctor, the nurse called me Daniel, and to the paper boy doing his rounds I was simply Danny. To make an official policy about how each of these people should address me would be rather silly."

Andrew MacCallum, deputy director of nursing at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital in London, agrees that there are problems: "People have high expectations of hospitals to treat them differently from other areas of society. Our staff are trained to use a patient's full name until they discover what name would be appropriate. But in many cases, we don't use a person's title because that, in itself, can cause embarrassment. In maternity services, for example, a woman may not welcome drawing attention to the fact that she is a 'miss'."

Elderly patients tend to be most sensitive about being called by their correct title. "We always try to establish how they would like to be addressed when they're admitted," says Sarah Mullally, director of nursing and quality at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. "It doesn't sound important, but it has an impact on them being treated with respect and dignity."

REVELATIONS

ROB NEWMAN, HERTFORDSHIRE, SUMMER 1982

Sowing the seed of panic in my summer of love

I HAD to wait until the age of 19 before I lost my virginity, which was quite late, but I lived in a dream world, going for long runs and exploring literature. Being incredibly shy with girls was made worse because I went to an all-boys' comprehensive school.

Not that I wasn't hopeful – during cub scout bob-a-job week I went to this beautiful blonde woman's house. She wanted me to clean out her freezer, but asked: "Can you come back tomorrow when my husband isn't here." I thought: "Oh, my God!" When I arrived the next day, hair brushed and parted, nothing. She just pointed me to the garage and the blood-soaked freezer.

Living in a village where the last bus went at quarter to seven put a crimp in my romantic adventures, but villages can be flirty places. Everybody makes eye contact because they expect to run into friends. Just walking past an attractive girl was like swallowing a jar of hormone tablets. I remember, as if it were yesterday, a sunny, windy day on Hitchen High Street and this woman's dress was blowing up. But just as I was about to feast my eyes on her knickers, a lorry came down the road and blocked my view. To this day, I still feel cheated and bear a grievance against truck drivers – I never let them out into traffic.

I found buying my first condoms an erotic experience. I felt a wave of affection for the woman who sold me them – she seemed to be congratulating me on finding the courage. Fortunately, my girlfriend was very patient, and a really lovely person, because the first two attempts were embarrassing failures. We finally had another opportunity, round at my house, while my parents were out. I remember sitting on the doorstep waiting for her, wearing a pair of nylon running shorts and the Durex already put on!

I don't think it was special for her, because it was all over in moments, but afterwards, my brain was blown away. If someone had taken me apart and put my body back in a different way I wouldn't have been at all surprised. The effect of making love was so powerful; there should have been a sign saying: welcome to the sexual hysteria that will accompany you for the rest of your life.

We went for a walk afterwards, still in a complete daze, and I thought I would go mad if I didn't first

rub my hand on the bark of this tree and then immerse it in dry mud. It was like a panic attack. My girlfriend stamped off down the hill shouting something from that personal filing cabinet that men know nothing about. She said: "Men have to take everything so seriously. It's like when my dad plays badminton." That analogy didn't work for me, as you don't have existential crises after a game of badminton.

Occasionally, sex is still transcendental, but not often. I'm more likely to get my jollies from a nice walk in the country. I believe in those epiphanic moments, but I can never get them to set. Within two or three days, it's back to normal. Not that I wanted the moment after I first made love to last for ever, because I was frightened I was going mental. It still happens sometimes when I go on holiday, like Victorian women who had swooning attacks in Paris because of all the newness. I usually have to return home early, because I'm not happy until I've got ketchup, baked beans and familiar smells.

I'm a beacon of stability to all my friends: I'll always be this steady person sailing a middle course unruffled by everything around me – not! However, in the last two years I've been up and down less. Perhaps writing the book and being forced to stretch my threads out on the loom has made me more integrated. I read interviews about people who seem to really understand their lives, but mine is doors opening and closing, traffic lights, people moving around, these are my shoes... There is no coherent, connected picture. However, through writing I've discovered I have been noticing things, so the black box has recorded something.

Although I stopped doing stand-up for two years, I don't think returning to comedy will unbalance me – cut to the sanatorium and me being wheeled to my next gig in a bath chair. Seriously, I have never enjoyed my stand-up more. Having to communicate with an audience also tunes me into the part of my personality where the sanity lies. It has cheered me up a lot.

So, how did that summer change my life? I discovered that I have an incredible facility for going through life and learning absolutely nothing. As my mum used to say, I'm as stupid as the day I was born.

INTERVIEW BY ANDREW G MARSHALL

Rob Newman is at the Edinburgh Festival from 11 to 30 August, at the Assembly Rooms. His book 'Manners' is published on 24 September

هكذا من الاصل

Mother, I hardly knew you

When Alzheimer's first struck her mother, for Elisa Seagrave it seemed only the latest of her escapes from parental responsibility. Then she discovered her mother's diaries, written as a young woman

Elisa Seagrave with her mother's notebooks: "I found that because of the diaries I had almost forgiven her" *Andrew Buurman*

I went to see my mother two days before her 84th birthday. She did not look at me. Her eyes were cast down and her mouth, without teeth, was set in an "O". Her skin was stretched tightly over her face, accentuating her high cheekbones, which once helped her to pass as a Russian on one of her trips to Moscow. She was delighted. I think she is almost blind, but she cannot tell us.

Someone told me that there may soon be a remedy for Alzheimer's disease. The thought of my mother regaining her wits is as frightening to me as that scene in *Fatal Attraction* when the deranged drowned woman suddenly springs out of the bath, alive and capable of doing more harm.

Before she got Alzheimer's, my mother was an alcoholic. She broke her hip twice and her arm once, falling. Soon after the second hip break, I got cancer. My children were still small and I was about to get divorced. My mother was supposed to help me, but it turned out the other way round.

When I was five, I had a fantasy that my mother was a little girl of my own age. I longed for that little girl to be my playmate. (I had no sisters, only brothers.) Now I see that my mother was a little girl, all her life. Emotionally, she never grew up.

When I was a teenager, she would even ask my grandmother why I couldn't look after my younger brothers, instead of her.

She nearly did not come to my wedding party, because of a cold. Everyone was asking: "Where's your mother?"

When I had my first baby, my mother was abroad – for four weeks. When my second baby was christened, my mother could not find our flat and went home without going to the church.

For someone who was already an escapist, Alzheimer's was my mother's ultimate escape. Now I would never be able to challenge her. She was for ever out of my reach.

Last summer she moved into a bungalow, to be looked after by professional carers. Her house, where she had lived for 40 years, had to be sorted out and sold. I resented my mother for once again having evaded her responsibilities, and for the time it took me to sort out her house and the various legal problems. I disapproved of her hoarding. Why had she not given away some of her possessions, as my grandmother had done? Even in old age, my mother had been ordering toys and china animals from catalogues, when her house was already full. It was ridiculous.

Then I came across the diaries. I knew vaguely that my mother had written some diaries, but I had had no idea there were so many.

It turned out that, like me, my mother had been writing diaries most of her life. I had a filing cabinet full of my own typed or printed-out diaries; my mother had three boxes of exercise books, in her very difficult handwriting. Having been brought up almost as an only child – her little brother had died when she was five – my mother had been secretive and possessive.

I began to read snippets of the diaries every now and then. One section, written, unlike the rest, on separate sheets of writing paper, described her visit to our American cousins in 1936, the year of the Abdication crisis, when she was 22. These pages were for some reason in a box of possessions belonging to my little brother, who had drowned at the age of five.

Of course, I was all too aware of my mother's personal tragedies, some of which I shared – the death of her father in France in 1917 when she was three, the death of her own little brother – he had a neurological condition and never learnt to sit up – and the subsequent deaths of two of her sons, the second when he was 24.

It seemed poignant that in this box of her beloved little boy's toys was her own diary of that earlier trip to America, in which she described how her friend's brother Fife had asked her to marry him. In those days my mother had been a cheerful, optimistic young woman. How much happier she might have been if she had married Fife and settled in the US, where she was surrounded by her loving American cousins. She and my father had been unsuited to each other. Exhausted by four years on the North Atlantic commanding destroyers, he had died in the mid-Sixties, of cirrhosis of the liver.

Even more fascinating were my mother's diaries of 1937 and 1938. In 1938, the year before the Second World War, she had driven to Eastern Europe in a Ford V8 with a young friend. They had travelled as far as the north-east corner of Romania, from where, on the Romanian side of the river Dniestre, they could see Soviet Russia.

My mother, a romantic, had written: "All my life I have dreamed of seeing Russia but somehow I never thought I would do it." (In fact, she subsequently visited Russia many times.)

I was fascinated by the details my mother had recorded. She wrote about how her Hungarian friends had played a card game in which the coveted card was called "Mussolini", how in the Saxon town of Bistrita, in "Dracula" country, the children, in that summer of 1938, were saying: "Heil Hitler', how, at Dragomirna monastery – my mother described the church tower shaped like a harebell – a Russian abbot who had fled from the Russian Revolution had put his spoon into the jar of quince jam, then licked it, and put it back for more.

I looked at the amateur films my mother had made of those villages in Hungary and Romania – a gypsy wedding, oxen pulling carts. I thought of the masses of photographs she had taken, all carefully labelled and catalogued, of us children, as well as of her own travels. She could have been a travel writer, an interpreter or a documentary film maker.

But she had lacked the confidence and the outlets. Her isolation and the inability to get over her personal tragedies meant that her talent had never been expressed in the outside world.

I recalled how, aged nine, I had been strumming tunes from my mother's American song-book on the piano. My father had strode in and told me to stop. My mother had defended me. She had understood that, like her, my imagination had been caught by the sad, sentimental songs – "Swanee River', "Poor Old Joe", and so on – from the American South.

I looked at another diary, from the first years of her marriage, when my father had been working in Spain. Then they had been very happy. I was surprised to read how my mother described me, aged two, as her "little love'. I had always thought she preferred my brother.

The last time I went to see my mother she seemed delighted to see me. Her carer said that she was having a good day and had been repeating the name of her favourite American cousin, who is 92. My mother had, apparently, been saying all day: "Let's go to America!"

I found that, because of the diaries, I had almost forgiven her. Inadvertently perhaps, she has given me that legacy. I, unlike her, am a professional writer.

Without either of us realising it at the time, my mother was standing behind me all my life. Unable to help herself, my mother waited in the wings, urging me, her daughter, into the spotlight.

Extracts From Our American Diaries

FROM MY mother's American diary of 1936, the year of the Abdication crisis. She was 22. She was visiting cousins, and a schoolfriend's family

October 1936, Virginia
Great excitement in the paper as usual about Mrs Simpson saying that King had said he would be married before the spring and talking about her divorce and how the Lloyds rates on the Coronation not taking place in May had risen from £5 to £25. Every paper has a leading article on Mrs Simpson every day. America still feels like a colony of England, they always talk about the King meaning the King of England and almost say "Our King". I find everywhere the feeling that England is still the Mother Country.

Maryland, a few days later
After lunch Fife insisted on taking me for a walk. Walking back through the cornfield he suddenly told me he was so much in love with me that it drove him crazy and that he's never felt like that about anyone before although he's had lots of affairs. He asked me to marry him. I didn't know how I felt at all but he looked so attractive and was so perfectly sweet.

Elisa travelled round America on the Greyhound Bus with an Englishman, M, six years older than her, who was collecting underground newspapers. Unlike her mother's American beau, he did not propose to her. They ended their trip in a hotel near the New York City Greyhound Bus Terminal, off 42nd street.

February 1970, New York
M went to see an avant-garde film. I went to the Lincoln Centre to see a musical – Dita (my American cousin, five when my mother was in America in 1936) had given me the ticket. Afterwards I sat for a few moments by the fountain outside. It was lit up, so the water was green and red. Above me the sky was completely black. I took out a pencil and wrote on my programme. "I love you. I meant to say it before. Please, please don't leave me."

Joys of Modern Life

7. THE RADIATOR KEY
BY TIM DOWLING

I will admit that as far as objects of desire go, they do not come much more obscure than the humble radiator key. It does not even really qualify as a key. It is just a little quadrangular wrench that, so far as I am able to discover, does not fit anything but radiators. It is a tool that does one job, and a seasonal one at that: it enables you to bleed the air out of your radiator by loosening the little recessed nut on the unit's right flank. Even "tool" is too grand a title. It is really just a knob that does not stay on, one of those things that spends more time missing than found. It should be right there in the bowl with the pesetas, paperclips and fuzzy breath mints, but it is not.

Like most people, I have more than one. A cursory search through all the usual drawers and jars turned up no fewer than three, which by my rule of proportional object displacement means there are at least three more that I cannot find. Two of these keys are identical die-cast aluminium affairs, but the one I always use for bleeding is brass, with nice round grip-holes, a large, mouse-ear handle and two bleed-faster stripes cut round the tapered barrel. I have no idea where I got it, but it obviously dates from an era when even the most marginally utile object was possessed of some style. While I could hardly get away with saying it outperforms plainer keys, it has a satisfying weight, and it makes a nice sort of blokeish talisman.

Bleeding radiators is one of my hobbies, and it is a *distraction* I would recommend to anyone who works from home. It is easy, and highly satisfying in a vicarious sort of way, like burping a baby. My devotion to this routine maintenance procedure began two years ago, after a repairman came round to fix my central heating. He produced his key and started bleeding and, with a shake of his head, gave me to understand that a real man would never let so much air build up in his system. He asked me when I had last bled the radiators. Afraid to say "never", I lied and said I had done it the previous winter. He did not believe me. For this humiliation I paid a huge call-out fee, and the radiators stayed cold. When a week later another repairman pinpointed the real problem in the boiler tank, I swore I would never be duped again. The next time a repairman suggests I may have excess air in the system, I will brandish my favourite brass key. Old Bleeder, and say, "There is never any air in my radiators. Let's stop playing games, shall we?"

The radiator key could be said to be cousin to the now-extinct skate key, another single-purpose tool with a high misplaceability rating. Although indisputably an adult thing, the radiator key looks like the kind of object boys always have in their pockets. Even now, if I saw one lying in the road I would probably pick it up, which is more than I can say about your 10-pence coin.

According to the man at the ironmonger's, the standard radiator key fits 90 per cent of all radiators. While there I bought a new one (brass, milled barrel pierced by a cylindrical handle, stopcock-style) for 95p. I suppose I do not really need to be adding to my collection, but there is not much else to do in the off-season.

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Legal Notices

The Insolvency Act 1986
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 5 Park Court, Fyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD on the 5th day of August 1998 at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and Rule 4.127 of The Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors are only entitled to vote at the Meeting if a proof of debt, together with a proxy if required, has been lodged at 5 Park Court, Fyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD not later than noon on 4th August 1998.
A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, for the two business days prior to the meeting at Gibson Hewitt & Co, 5 Park Court, Fyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SD.
Dated this 21st day of July 1998
By Order of the Board
E GRAHAM, Director

PETTY SESSIONAL DIVISION OF HOUNSLOW

NOTICE OF APPLICATION PROVISIONAL JUSTICES' LICENCE

To all whom it may concern

We, Christopher John Saunders and Kevin Alan Frisby both c/o Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex having during the past six months carried on the trade or calling of Pre-Opening Manager and Manager respectively do HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE that it is our intention to apply at the transfer sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Hounslow to be held at Brentford Magistrates' Court, Market Place, Brentford Middlesex on 13th August 1998 at 2.45pm for the grant to us of a Provisional Justices' Licence authorising us to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption on and off the premises about to be altered and situate at Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 9AD and to be known by the sign of "St. Giles Hotel" which said premises are owned by New Commercial Investments Limited, c/o Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 9AD.

Given under our hands this 22nd day of July 1998.

Poppleston Allen Solicitors
For and on behalf of the applicants
27 Stoney Street,
The Lace Market,
Nottingham NG1 1LS

THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 28 July 1998

The performance artist Andrey Bartenev is the leader of Russia's high camp revolution. By **John Windsor**

He's the Damien Hirst of the Arctic Circle

Andrey Bartenev reveals his own brand of costume drama

Andrey Bartenev, the 29-year-old performance artist whose riverside carnival will be staged at the Royal Festival Hall this coming weekend, is Moscow's Damien Hirst. He designs gigantic, outrageous costumes and is so popular over there that the Russian *mafiya* splice footage of his best-known creations into TV commercials advertising their garish night-clubs and beauty parlours.

Dancers wearing the unwieldy costumes of his signature work, the *Botanic Ballet*, have to be trained not to fall over. Only strings that are gripped between the teeth prevent the male version of his "Underwear for Africa" – a 10ft diameter frame bearing discs that are the size of satellite dishes – from falling apart. The wearer is naked apart from a codpiece.

Bartenev has been here before. He staged his first London performances – one-nighters at the V&A and the Concord Sylvania gallery – two years ago. However, his attempt to establish "a new visual culture" has yet to acquire a following in the English-speaking world. In this country, cutting-edge art is not performance art but the pickled sharks and elephant dung paintings of the "Sensation" generation. That is our "visual art". Not a single British performance artist has achieved a reputation matching the Sensation artists.

But then, we never had a Diaghilev – and the Russians love ballet. That goes a long way towards explaining why, when *perestroika* released a torrent of creative talent, Bartenev's performance art streaked to the forefront of the Russian artistic avant-garde.

He made his reputation during the magical three years of 1991-94, the dream-time that elapsed between the bondage of communism and the bondage of the new capitalism. It was then that liberated Russians and Eastern Europeans threw themselves into a kind of Saturnalia of art festivals. Bartenev's costume spectaculars were acclaimed at festivals of avant-garde fashion in Lithuania and Latvia. Moscow's state Tretyakov Gallery commissioned a performance from him, as did the Kremlin Palace. He toured Frankfurt and Zurich. Meanwhile, the Brits, pre-occupied with the emerging YBAs, had scarcely a notion of what was going on.

To get your head around Bartenev's act, recall what you can of Andrew Logan's *Alternative Miss World* competitions in London – the high-camp spectaculars featuring costumes that were so enormous they had to be put on wheels or supported by half a dozen train-bearers. Logan was in on the post-*perestroika* art scene as early as 1989. His Alternative Miss Worlds were the only reflection of it in this country. Logan and Bartenev first met during the *Botanic Ballet*'s first performance in Riga, the Latvian capital, in 1992.

That winged Sleeping Beauty at the last *Alternative Miss World*, three years ago, with eyeballs set alight on 18-inch stalks, was Bartenev's. So were the giant human USSR flags accompanied by an incontinent revolutionary rabbit.

Logan recalls: "Those few years after *perestroika* saw a wonderful explosion of creative talent that had been kept down for 70 years. But it was short-flowering. It was not long before the new capitalism and the *mafiya* moved in."

Bartenev has succumbed to it – at least to the new capitalism. His USSR and Sleeping Beauty collections have appeared in the Russian edition of *Playboy* magazine.

He is full of lamentations. "Once again," he says, "the artist in Russia is a nobody. Art patronage by the state has been replaced by a low-grade, Western-style consumerism that has become something of an official culture, dictating taste.

"Instead of fine art, we are getting entertainment, pop cabaret, night clubs with nude shows, beauty salons. The country has become a dusthin for European and American rubbish.

"Such a debased commercial and spiritual environment makes life difficult for the artist. One's aesthetic feeling gets upset. It's not an atmosphere in which one can create optimistic art. I find it suffocating".

He could survive without state funding. His colourful paintings of swirling forms have sold for up to $20,000 (£32,000). That is how he funds his art – "happy art", as he calls it.

"Why are European galleries still demanding Russian socialist-realist paintings? What are they trying to say – that Russia is a dark place full of dull proletarians?

"I want to bring joy and optimism. I don't like dark factories and offices. I like light. I like mountains, rivers, snow, the moon, the sun. Especially the sun. I like the endless horizon of the tundra, stretching farther than the eye can see.

Dancers wearing his unwieldy costumes have to be trained not to fall over

"In creating this new visual culture, I want to break through the human body's traditional boundaries of form. My costumes are not fashion in the traditional sense, not tomorrow's rubbish in the wardrobe. They are real life materialised".

Bartenev was born in Norilsk, an ugly industrial coastal town 50 miles inside the Arctic Circle, surrounded by a frosty, breathtakingly beautiful wilderness. There it is day and night for alternate halves of the year. Such a stark contrast inspires his work and helps to explain its excessiveness.

Shamanistic tribes survived in the region until the Eighties. The exaggerated shapes of their gods of the afterlife, carved in walrus ivory, echo those of Bartenev's giant figures. "Their culture was all about life. There were no dark ideas. Those principles are in my heart because I was born there".

For his first-ever performance, in a local music school, he and members of his Salon of Free Artists dressed up as mythical animals and gulls. He had just graduated from Krasnodar Academy of Art in southern Russia.

At that time, 11 years ago, the first green shoots of *perestroika* were showing through. Had he staged his performance earlier, he might have found himself locked up in an asylum. Even in the north of this country, his antics would have been considered a little queer.

But the Russian authorities let things pass and the audience of intellectuals clapped. "There had been nothing like it since Diaghilev. They recognised the culture of optimism. Seventy years of depression had failed to kill it off".

The Bartenev family traces its descent to Ivan III in the 14th century. In this century, Andrey's grandparents were sent to labour camps in Siberia and Chukotka. They were posthumously rehabilitated in the Seventies – too late to save his parents from low-grade jobs in mines and on building sites.

"So my mother and father applauded when, as a child, I began to express myself artistically. That was long before *perestroika*.

"I have always followed the path of creative egotism, thanks to the atmosphere of freedom and self-sufficiency that they fostered. They let me find things out for myself. I still work that way. Whether performance of painting, I create primarily for myself. That seems to be the most honest way of doing things, don't you think?"

Bartenev's riverside performance, 'Sun Isn't Moon', at the Royal Festival Hall, 9pm Saturday (1 August) and 2pm Sunday (2 August), will have a cast of 60. It is part of the Royal Festival Hall's summer season, "The Great Outdoors". Music is by the young Russian composer Oleg Kostrov, with additional music by Ben Park. The performance will be choreographed and directed by Fin Walker. Julieta Rubio and Charles Beauchamp, the London carnival artists, have worked with students from the Sir John Cass School of Art to create new costumes and accessories.

There is a free exhibition of nine costumes from Bartenev's 'Botanic Ballet' in the foyer until 16 August. Beside it is Bertenev's Box, full of Bartenesque costumes for children to dress up in. For inquiries call 0171-960 4242

Weighed down by law of the jungle

THEATRE

AFTER DARWIN
HAMPSTEAD THEATRE, LONDON

TIMBERLAKE WERTENBAKER'S latest work laudably presents a feast of ideas, but it is one that leaves you feeling curiously unsated. As with the award winning tale of convict theatricals down under, *Our Country's Good* – receiving a tenth anniversary revival this autumn – *After Darwin* centres on a play within a play. Or, to be more precise, a series of scenes within a rehearsal period. A re-enactment of the voyage of discovery that prompted Charles Darwin to develop his theory of evolution is framed by the tempestuous journey of self-discovery undergone by members of an impoverished theatre company.

The play proper charts the course of HMS *Beagle*'s passage to South America in 1831, during which the young naturalist made those observations on the diversity of finches in the Galapagos Islands that were to pave the way for *On The Origin of the Species*. A friendship, then an enmity, develops between Darwin and the captain, Robert Fitzroy. At one level, this is a Mozart versus Salieri-style rivalry, a seesaw contest between casual genius and plodding mediocrity. Jason Watkins's Darwin is an irrepressibly boyish traveller, who likes to talk like the animals, and who wades onto the minefield of natural selection almost by accident.

Fitzroy (Michael Feast) by contrast, is a stern, unstable workaholic, who realises that his meticulous cartography will prove flotsam and jetsam compared to his companion's observations. Wertenbaker elicits some simple comedy from the pronounced difference in temperament between the two men, but she complicates matters by showing Fitzroy's gloomy gravitas to be as much the consequence of long-sightedness as small minded envy. The founding father of meteorology wishes to anchor humanity to a greater appreciation of the divine fan – and sees, more clearly than Darwin does, "the tormented world from which God is absent". The conflict between the two becomes a showdown between two competing world views, one of which can only thrive at the expense of the other.

In tandem runs a series of heated discussions between the "actors" playing Fitzroy and Darwin. The former, Ian, is a fading stage star. The latter, Tom, is even more oafish out of character than in. He has, however, grasped the notion that only the fittest (or in this case, most self-centred) survive. His decision to accept a walk-on in a mindless blockbuster, which he justifies as self-preservation, threatens the livelihoods of everyone around him. It is here that Wertenbaker scuppers herself by overloading the different responses to the tired description of capitalist society as a predator-packed jungle.

Despite an admirable economy of style, director Lindsay Posner is powerless to prevent connections that seem on the point of being fully developed from sinking back down into a fathomless intellectual gloup.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH
Booking 0171-722 9301

The beauty of wistful thinking

ROCK

ARNOLD
RONNIE SCOTT'S LONDON

WHEN ARNOLD were signed by Creation records last year, the only reasonable response appeared to be one involving the enthusiastic brandishing of garlic and crucifixes. As dour, lo-fidelity, Luddite indie under-achievers went, Arnold looked definitive to the point of caricature: their first release was a collection of demos recorded in a barn (the imaginatively titled *Barn Tapes*), the three core members of the band looked like they had woken up in skips, and they were named after the bass player's dog. The idea that they might one day record something that anybody sane and not related to them would choose to listen to seemed as plausible a notion as St Paul's Cathedral taking flight.

Surprisingly, then, Arnold's new offering, *Hillside Album*, is intriguing and lovely enough to tempt any cynic out oo a damp Sunday evening. Some of the record, granted, is every bit as tedious and annoying as stoned youths with acoustic guitars tend to be, and the rather self-consciously experimental excursion should have been kept between the band and the studio walls, but the rest is a modest trove of wistful beauty. As Arnold, hunched beneath the low ceiling of this memorable venue, drawled and strummed quietly through songs such as "Goodbye Grey" and "Hillside", anyone who has loved records by Nick Drake or American Music Club would have been happy to forgive them almost anything.

Part of the considerable appeal of *Hillside Album* is its air of genial lackadaisy, the way it sounds as if its creators woke up one morning and yawned it. In a live setting, Arnold – appearing as a five-piece – mostly managed to maintain this intoxicating torpor and the drummer looked like he'd nodded off more than once. But on the rare occasion they do muster some intensity, they're startling effective. On "Ira Jones Goes to the Country", lead vocalist Phil Morris exchanges his usual gentle croon for a bellicose snarl that recalled Eels's "Novocain For the Soul" or even Nirvana's *Unplugged* album – his faintly alarming physical resemblance to the late Kurt Cobain reinforcing the latter comparison.

Ultimately, its still difficult to picture the name "Arnold" up in lights at Madison Square Gardens with "sold out" warnings blinking beneath it. It is to be hoped that such a self-defeating choice of trademark is a poor joke that they have lived to regret and not the statement of anti-commercialism it sounds worrying like. It would be a shame for this band in particular to sell themselves short – there's something imperfect and unfinished but nonetheless special going on here, and a lot of people should hear it.

Arnold: Nick Drake would love them *All Action*

ANDREW MUELLER
This review appeared in some editions of yesterday's paper

A great big buffoon and too much dirty laundry

PROMS

ORCHESTRE REVOLUTIONNAIRE ET ROMANTIQUE
ROYAL ALBERT HALL

THE LAUNDRY basket arrived first. Before the conductor. Indeed, for a moment or two one wondered if, in the spirit of promenaderie, the thinner of the two knights dominating the evening (both Sir Johns, as it happens) might leap from it and launch a surprise attack on the opening bars. 'Twas not to be, though the opening bars – like much else besides – fair crackled along when Sir John Eliot Gardiner did eventually assume his rightful place at the helm of the Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique. This "semi-staged" rendition of Verdi's final operatic masterpiece (a co-production with theatres in Baden-Baden and Cagliari) had the spirit and temper of a show that had lost its inhibitions "on the road", as it were. Director Ian Judge brought it to the Albert Hall minus the scenery but plus more or less everything else. Including rather too much of the action. It was great when anybody stood still long enough to be heard.

Audibility – that age-old Albert Hall problem. Or rather, it needn't be a problem if performers are more off the hoof than on it, if voices are not forever coming and going between main acting areas that are an Olympic sprint and a couple of staircases apart. Especially since Judge would appear to have been far less concerned for the "lyric comedy" of the piece than for its farce and slapstick. "Frantic" (and before Saturday night I thought that was a movie) probably sums it up. The spiralling insanity of act two, scene two – the laundry basket scene – culminated in a kind of Keatonesque chorus line snaking its chaotic way from one location to the next. For one awful moment I thought I was at a Frank Dunlop productioo for Raymond Gubbay. An item of dirty laundry then briefly smothered the first clarinet, a salutory reminder of the hazards of orchestra participation. But then, for that matter, much (too much) had been made of the on-stage interaction betweeo the fat knight and the thin one (and even the extinct one – Sir Henry, whose bronze bust gazed bemusedly over the proceedings). It worked the first time, and even the second, but...

The fat one, who shall be known hereafter as Falstaff, was Jean-Philippe Lafont, amply endowed, it has to be said, with more personality than voice (too much of the *buffo parlando*). What I wouldn't have given for less of the buffoon, the overgrown adolescent, and more of the old sot with airs. But this was generally a fine cast whose well-honed lyric voices would have been heard to better effect in a small house. Hillervi Martinpelto's Alice was blessed with stylish phrasing, Rebecca Evans floated a starry-eyed fragility as Nannetta, there was an outstanding Mistress Quickly in Sara Mingardo, the antithesis of the clapped-out character mezzos who too often sing the role (the comedy of her "reverential" bottom register beautifully exploited), and a marvellous Ford in Anthony Michaels-Moore, whose fury thrillingly crossed the boundaries of the comi-tragic in his act two *scena*.

Above all, though, the spirit of Verdi's endlessly resourceful score was alive and well and living in Gardiner's orchestra. Period instruments bring a warmth and piquancy and speed of reflex and character all their own. Woodwinds are woodier, brass brassier. In particular, the bawdiness, the flatulence of the score, can be given full rein: witness the mocking guffaw of horns, trilling down in their lowest register, which tells us more about Falstaff's igominious dousing than anything anyone might put on stage.

EDWARD SECKERSON

هكذا من الاصل

Snatch a kiss before flying

A spell back in his native Russia brought out a wildly different side to Marc Chagall.

By Tom Lubbock

Marc Chagall's 'Over the Town', 1916-18. What's impressive about his flying pictures is that they're very convincing about human air-travel. If it could be, this is how it would go

Hey-diddle-diddle. Marc Chagall needs no recommendation. If you love him, he's the most lovable of modern artists. As he often said, he painted from the heart. The Royal Academy couldn't have found a more apt show than "Chagall: Love and the Stage" to accompany its Summer Exhibition. Many, surely, are buying joint tickets, and – going by last Thursday afternoon – the three rooms of the Sackler Gallery are getting fairly stuffed.

But if you don't love Chagall, this "lovability" is just what sticks in the craw. Oh, the fiddlers on the roofs, the cows jumping over moons, the blissed-out angels and swooning lovers and magic roosters – you know the repertoire well enough, a parade of twee, whimsical, folksy kitsch. And you don't have to know much about art to get the idea that (like Dali) Chagall really won't do.

Actually, this exhibition holds something for both sorts of viewer. It shows the artist in his prime, but with his direction not yet clear. Some of the pictures here, in their subjects and moods, certainly point to the winsome personal mythology that increasingly absorbed Chagall's talents. But others have inklings of the quite different artist – more edgy and more public-minded – that Chagall might have become.

The period is 1914-22, the artist's late twenties to early thirties, a time that he hadn't planned to spend back in Russia. He had been four years in Paris, picking up the latest news about cubism etc, and came home for a short visit. War stranded him among his family and his Jewish roots. He married his long-standing girlfriend. He got involved enthusiastically in the revolution – at the start, Bolshevik and ethnic policies were encouragingly progressive, Jews were given political rights, the avant-garde promoted. He worked with the newly formed State Jewish Chamber Theatre. Chagall's paintings here reflects these mixed forces, and show how the mixture might have come out otherwise.

The "love" half of the show, celebrating his relationship with Bella, has the more familiar signs. There are lots of pictures of flying and kissing. Clearly these predict the later, sweet-dreamy Chagall, but the vision here is still practical. What's impressive about the flying pictures, for instance, is that they're very convincing about human air-travel. If it could be, this is how it would go. In *Promenade* the model is kite-flying. The man (a clear self-portrait) stands on the ground, holding on to the woman by one arm as she is tugged away above him on the wind, her torso acting as the kite-sail, her legs playing limply in the air like the tail. In *Over the Town* both figures are off the ground and doing a horizontal wave. Here, the main idea is swimming backstroke. They want to be ecstatic images, and if they succeed it's because – some irrelevant cubistic elements aside – they do ecstasy with real bodies.

The kissing paintings aren't so persuasive, though they work on an interesting idea, to make images entirely out of arrangements of heads and hands. But they come up against an old pictorial problem: the fact that when two people are kissing mouth to mouth, it's very hard to see the interesting bits, their mouths and eyes. And Chagall uses a time-honoured trick to keep things visible, which is to depict the kissing heads as facing profiles, and then to overlap them so that their lips meet – at least, they meet on the picture plane, but in 3D actuality either the mouths would pass each other by, or the faces would squash.

The effect tends to be rather innocent. The figures don't look like adults devouring each other, but like children who, when they try to kiss mouths, bump noses, or like angels with no bodies to hump. Chagall's version too, though it very nearly extracts from the problem a kind of awkward tenderness, is too fey. But kissing is a subject that has defeated most Western artists. Very few hit quite the right note. This is an honourable attempt.

But it is the "stage" half of the show that's far more promising. It promises the Chagall that later got completely lost. Indeed, many of the pictures he did for the State Jewish Chamber Theatre were lost for many years, when Soviet cultural policy went into reverse, first hidden under the stage, then stored rolled up on drums in a museum. But here they are revealed: the enormous frieze *Introduction to the Jewish Theatre*, almost three by eight metres, and the four vertical images depicting Music, Dance, Drama and Literature. In the large cast of characters there are familiar figures – fiddlers and dancers and flyers, a few farm animals, too. But the world they are in is something else.

Kissing is a subject that has defeated most Western artists. This is an honourable attempt

These works represent a utopian moment of culture, a coming together of art and politics, the avant-garde and the popular and the ethnic. Perhaps because these are murals – wall hangings, though, not wall paintings – Chagall uses a completely flattened space. The flyers aren't really off the ground, because there isn't any firm ground. The pictures are a surface without any consistent gravity or depth or scale, on which figures of different sizes, and in a mixture of styles, float and interact, on equal terms. It's a space derived from cubist experiments, but used for social purposes, which go beyond theatre and Jewishness.

The *Introduction* frieze is the best example here, both of the sort of art Chagall might have gone on to do, and to us now, with our attempts to create some tolerable image of "community". It tackles a familiar problem of civic art. The most telling contrast would be with those public-minded street murals, which invariably and stupidly try to render a deep, receding space, and then fill it with all sorts and degrees of people involved in a jolly communitarian knees-up. The main trouble with such works is that they offer an obvious lie. Even the most homogenous community is very unlikely to get together in this frictionless way.

If you look at the *Introduction* it has a euphoric energy, but this doesn't stem from any unison activity. It has come out of the very plurality and contrariety of its forms and figures, which isn't completely chaotic, though the structure is pretty free. There's a diagonal relay-line of figures going across the whole width, interrupted by a circular formation in the middle. Among the characters, though, almost everyone is doing something different – you can pick up various groupings, different patterns of echoes. And then other little scenes break out away from the main action.

By 1922, doubtful of his prospects in Soviet Russia, Chagall was back in Paris, pretty well for good. He never did anything like that again, but then the opportunity – the opportunity for social rather than personal imagination – never presented itself again, either. It was a great one-off chance. Sad for him, he never repeated the performance; but it's good for us to get an inkling of how a multi-cultural society might plausibly be pictured.

'Chagall: Love and the Stage 1914-22', Royal Academy until 4 October. Summer Exhibition until 16 August (0171 300 8000)

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO BUYING AFFORDABLE MODERN ART

It all comes out in the wash

THE HIGH streets of rural Suffolk are full of bad watercolours by local artists – timid daubs in insipid colours. But in Woodbridge, in a cottage half hidden by trees, Barrie Houghton is producing courageous semi-abstract landscapes that signal a rediscovery of the medium's true potential.

Now 56, Houghton took up watercolour only 10 years ago, after watching one of his school-age daughters slosh on washes. Before that, having graduated in fine art from Central St Martin's, he travelled Europe with experimental theatre groups, trained under Joan Littlewood, then played sinister roles such as Nazi heavies and wily Arabs in a couple of dozen films.

The gap of 25 years has given him a fresh start. All that he was taught at art school, where he painted American-style abstract and expressionist oils, has fallen away. In its place, as he approaches the easel, beneath a fruiting vine in his tiny conservatory, is the sort of risk-all gambler's skill that kept him going during his years as an actor.

Applying washes is not for the timid. It is a make-or-break business. He fills a massive 2.5in brush with water, puddles it over several slabs of sticky Russian watercolours in his paintbox and, in a few quick strokes, spreads a pool of wash across the middle of a sheet of extra-heavy absorbent paper. Immediately, different colours begin to run together. He must act quickly. This could be fields stretching to a horizon or one of the three out of four muddy efforts he discards.

One of the secrets of his meteorological effects, which have a Turner-esque exuberance, is an indicator pin used to pivot a corner of the paper as one wash runs down it to mingle into another. In the example shown, the wash gives the impression of rainwater, storm-driven from land to sky in a dramatic arc. Houghton is just as adept at mopping and scrubbing, overpainting dry washes, and using his fingers to expose blank paper.

He begins his eight-to-10-hour working days with an hour's experimentation, aimed at extending his repertory of techniques. The result, he says, is that, "When I find exciting things happening in a painting, I stand more chance of being able to grasp them and make use of them.

"I take risks that can either spoil everything or lift a painting out completely. I think taking risks is what is lacking in watercolour today.

"Those people who emulate the Norwich School, for example, leave nothing of themselves in their paintings.

"It may sound like a cliché, but a painting in progress does have a life of its own. Although I have learned how to control paint, I still need to trust the way it behaves."

Perhaps no one has ever seen a storm driving rainwater off land – if, indeed, that is what is happening in Houghton's painting. But, like Turner's semi-abstractions, Houghton's atmospheric effects are immediately recognisable as natural phenomena.

He says: "I have a feeling for landscape. I can feel whether a painting is developing an interesting texture that people will read things into."

He has had solo exhibitions in Woodbridge, Cambridge, Ely and Dublin, and has begun to be widely collected.

Studio prices range from £250 to £1,000. The painting shown here is £800. His next solo show will be at the John Russell Gallery, 4-6 Wherry Lane, Ipswich, from 1 to 27 March, next year.

Barrie Houghton, 01394 385260; The John Russell Gallery, 01473 212051

Barrie Honghton at home with his painting Waterdrift in the background *Bryn Colton/Assignments*

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HEALTH

Stress is a serious business

An overused word, perhaps, but a condition to blame for many illnesses. By **Roger Dobson**

Bill, 42 and a former lorry driver, used to throw himself in the air without warning, then crouch down, cover his head with his hands and look terrified. Doctors diagnosed epilepsy. As a result he lost both his driving licence and his job. But when that medication didn't work, further tests were carried out and they found that his attacks were flasbbacks to a road accident.

Each time he was under stress, he would relive the horrors of the accident, where he had tried to protect himself in the cab of his lorry. Stress has long been associated with depression, lethargy and irritability: but it is being increasingly implicated in a much wider range of physical and mental health problems too.

More than 30 disorders and diseases, from swooning, nervous twitches and disassociations to cancer, heart attacks and migraine, have been traced back to stress. The fit suffered by the Brazilian footballer Ronaldo, now thought to have been an "over-breathing" response to stress, has shown that even the young and super-fit are not immune.

One of the difficulties in understanding and treating stress is that it has a wide range of symptoms. An added problem is that stress is an over-used word that can undermine the seriousness of this clinical condition. "Those that dismiss stress have never experienced it. Stress damages the body and produces physical and mental symptoms. Stress is very real and everybody has a point at which they will break down in a way characteristic to them," says Dr Tim Betts, senior lecturer in psychiatry at Birmingham University.

'Stress is very real and everynne has a point at which they will break dnwn' *Will Webster*

Clinical stress is difficult to define, but is generally taken to be a physical or psychological demand that is outside the norm and which triggers some kind of malfunctioning. Even this description, however, is confounded by the theory that there is both good and bad stress.

"If you run up for the start of a race and you are stressed, your heart is beating fast and you probably feel awful. You're shaking, you feel sick, you want to pee every five minutes, but then you run like bloody hell when the whistle goes and you win. That is good stress. If you stroll up to the start of the race, hands in pockets, and are so worried you are physically sick, that's bad. In other words, if stress makes you work harder and concentrate better, it's good. If it makes you ill, it's bad," says Dr Betts.

It is now accepted that the pressure generated by stress does result in changes in the brain and body. Experts believe that once it reaches a certain level, it triggers a range of chemical reactions in the brain which in turn determine the physical and mental response. One of the oldest and more spectacular responses is swooning which, according to Dr Betts, is an uncontrollable defence mechanism that can occur when an individual is faced with a stressful situation.

Another reaction to stress is disassociation, where painful events are viewed as though they were happening to someone else. "Disassociation is something we experience when we are put into a frightening situation," says Dr John Mellers, consultant neuropsychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital. "In cases of rape, victims will talk about not being there and about floating up to the ceiling and looking down at what was happening."

Stress is also implicated in a range of physical conditions, many of them a result of the effects it has on the release of hormones and other compounds such as serotonin, adrenalin and DHEA in the brain.

In heart disease, for instance, it's thought to generate an increase in the production of adrenalin, the so-called fight-or-flight hormone. In past times it served to keep man alive, but now we mostly over-produce adrenalin due to stress where there is no physical outlet.

"It's been found that in animals under high stress there is a thickening of the coronary artery wall," says Dr Jill Wilkinson, senior lecturer in psychology at the University of Surrey. "In humans it's been suggested that the so-called Type A person is more prone to coronary heart disease. These individuals are over committed to work, impatient, easily irritated and competitive."

It's thought that similar reactions in the brain to stress involve the release of other chemicals that compromise the immune system and can lead to cancer and other diseases.

But of all the reactions to stress, the most distressing are "abreactive" attacks. Characteristics of these are collapse, followed by a gasping and fighting for breath, arching of the back, pelvic thrusting, a thrashing of limbs and self injury.

The features of these attacks, says Dr Betts, one of the world's leading authorities on pseudo seizures, are sometimes a macabre pastiche of sexual intercourse, and are often found in women who have been sexually abused as children.

Abreactive attacks are related to the large family of seizures, fits and pseudo fits that produce some of the more bizarre and frightening symptoms. They are also thought to affect up to four per cent of the population.

"If they are stressed, people can hyperventilate themselves into something that looks very like a seizure. When you really hyperventilate, you go quite still, you stop breathing, you fall, and you twitch, and you go blue because you don't breathe again until you have built up your carbon dioxide levels," says Dr Betts.

Fits like this can be mistaken for epilepsy, a condition that can itself be triggered by stress. It is now estimated that one in five people diagnosed as having epilepsy in fact have had pseudo seizures of one kind or another. Spontaneous tantrums are another response to stress. Sufferers can throw themselves to the floor, scream and kick violently.

Dr Betts says, "If someone sees something like that they often think mistakenly that it's a fit and I suspect that's what happened to poor old Ronaldo. He got really wound-up and had an over-breathing attack."

SICK NOTES

WILLIAM HARTSTON

A COUPLE took their marriage vows in an ambulance in Boston, Massachusetts, after the groom fainted at the church ceremony. When Rafael Pittman collapsed at the altar, an ambulance was called and his bride-to-be, Shelly, followed him into it. As she stepped into the vehicle, one of the paramedics joked that they should get married right there, so the minister hopped in and performed the ceremony. "It all worked out well," the Rev Jason Sutton said. "Unusual, but well."

UNDER HEALTH laws in the state of California, Caesar salad is no longer illegal. The use of certain uncooked ingredients, including raw eggs, had been banned in a catch-all piece of legislation that included Caesar salad. A state representative, Carole Migden, then championed a bill to exempt traditional dishes, such as Caesar salad, from the requirement. When her bill was carried, Ms Migden said: "This half-baked law is now finally cooked."

MEDICAL LABORATORIES in Rio de Janeiro are under investigation following a hoax by a local newspaper in which bogus urine samples, consisting only of soft drinks, were sent for analysis. Only two of the 14 laboratories dealing with the samples detected the fraud. "These laboratories do not pass the test for ethics and respect for the consumer," Justice Minister Renan Calheiros told reporters. "They must be treated like bacteria which must be fought without respite."

REPORTS FROM Taiwan indicate that sales of traditional Chinese aphrodisiacs are under threat from the rapidly increasing popularity of Viagra. While the drug is not yet legal in most Asian countries, counterfeit Viagra has been found in Taiwan. Traditional doctors, who peddle secret formulas to cure impotence with names such as the *Big Hero Pill* or Essence of Tyrant, dismiss Viagra as a quick fix. They claim their remedies treat the whole person and lead to a lasting remedy for sexual dysfunction.

A FOUR-YEAR study at the Penn State College of Medicine has concluded that the role of hormones in determining sexual behaviour in teenagers may be overrated. Extra doses of testosterone for males and oestrogen for females were found to have little or no effect on the frequency of sexual behaviour such as masturbation, sexual intercourse and petting. Girls treated with extra hormones, however, did kiss more.

ACCORDING TO recent research presented to the Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group annual conference in Derby, four cups of coffee or tea drunk over the course of a single day has a comparable effect to a single 200mg caffeine injection. Both improve the drinker's attention, accuracy, reaction time and feelings of alertness. Twelve cups of coffee a day, however, may produce anxiety.

The virus lurking in your liver

Hepatitis B is deadly but silent. We need more awareness, says **Heather Welford**

IF DICK Germain hadn't had a severe attack of breathlessness at London Bridge station three years ago, he may never have discovered he had Hepatitis B (HepB). Mr Germain, 65, had blood tests as a result of his attack, which revealed both a dangerously high cholesterol level and the presence of active HepB – unconnected, according to the doctors, but each needing immediate treatment.

Mr Germain was treated with interferon injections for six months, then subsequent blood checks showed it had become active again. "I needed to repeat the interferon," he says. "I now go for regular tests, to make sure it is still in remission."

The doctor who treated Mr Germain asked if he had had any "sexual adventures", but the most likely cause of transmission was through inadequately sterilised needles. "I was born in China, and it may be I was given some medical treatment which used dirty needles," he says. "Or it could be that I contracted it as an adult when I worked in Brazil, as I had injections from time to time."

HepB – in the news last week when a Paignton woman was suspected of exposing schoolchildren to the virus – can be a hidden killer. In worldwide terms, it's the ninth most common cause of death. An estimated one in every 1,000 of us in the UK is a carrier of the HepB virus, and can pass it to others. HepB is a different virus to HepC and also a less common one. Although Dr Jane Zuckerman, head of the academic unit of travel medicine and vaccines at London's Royal Free Medical School, says "both viruses have the potential for equally serious consequences and in fact HepB is more infectious. In the worst affected UK areas, as many as 1 in 50 pregnant women carry the virus, and they may pass it on to their babies.

While the majority of carriers may be unaware, between 10 and 30 per cent can develop serious disorders when the virus finally attacks the liver – maybe after a lifetime of being symptom-free. Liver cancer and cirrhosis of the liver are the most serious effects, often fatal.

It seems certain that Mr Germain had been a carrier for decades. Fortunately, his family were all clear. He now takes some precautions to protect others, and himself. "I'm now careful if I cut myself to wipe up any blood, and I keep off alcohol completely. All in all, I feel very fortunate."

"HepB can be an extremely nasty virus," says Dr Zuckerman. "I would like to see health advisers giving out far more information about it – awareness of it is very low. Anyone who travels abroad should be vaccinated. If you need medical treatment in some of these countries, you just can't be sure of the cleanliness of surgical instruments and needles."

Dr Zuckerman points out that "safer sex" measures offer protection, but campaigns targeting young holiday makers and business travellers with advice to use a condom rarely mention HepB. Yet the virus is extremely robust, and much more contagious than HIV. It can survive for a week on razors and needles, and is detectable in all body fluids.

An acute episode of HepB varies from relatively mild flu-like symptoms to a pretty unpleasant longer-lasting illness, with jaundice, nausea, vomiting, pains in the abdomen and severe fatigue. If you catch HepB as an adult, you're likely to make a full recovery. However, 10 per cent go on to become carriers, with the eventual possibility of liver damage. Babies with HepB are at greater risk of long-term effects, with 90 per cent becoming carriers.

The vaccine against HepB is generally regarded as safe, and in some other countries it's given routinely to infants, something Dr Zuckerman would like to see the Department of Health doing here. Kate Allsopp, spokesperson for the British Liver Trust, an information service, says: "At present it would be more cost-effective to target people known to be at risk, and offer them the vaccine, and to vaccinate babies of infected mothers. There's a public education job needed, too, to raise awareness generally."

Dick Germain may have caught HepB as a child *John Lawrence*

At last, a Sure Start for disadvantaged children

BRITAIN ON THE COUCH

OLIVER JAMES

Sure Start proves that at least some key members of New Labour understand the true causes of crime

THE GOVERNMENT'S announcement of its £540m Sure Start programme (proprietors: J Straw MP and T Jowell MP) is the most important measure ever taken to prevent crime in this country. It aims to help 125,000 infants in 250 deprived areas. A further £2m is to be spent on a National Family and Parenting Institute that will advise on how to spend the money

Sure Start proves that at least some key members of New Labour understand the true causes of crime and what to do about them. It cancels out some of the less promising early signs in the party's attitude to child care, such as Harriet Harman's apparent desire to part children from their single parents as young as possible.

Sure Start is based on the assumption that the way parents treat their children during the first three years of life profoundly affects what sort of adults they become. This is not a popular premise in a nation whose citizens are far more likely to attend rallies for the protection of animals than for children.

Psychiatrists tend to believe that psychological problems are largely caused by genes, with adverse social conditions (but not early childhood) tacked on as a possible stressor for the vulnerable. Clinical psychologists are more likely to emphasise the role of upbringing, but attach no special importance to the early years.

Along with doctors, psychologists must take the blame for the paucity of research studies in this country testing whether the early years are critical. The main evidence comes from America.

Freud's psychoanalysis started more promisingly with his announcement of an epidemic of child sexual abuse in Vienna in 1897. Unfortunately, he soon replaced this claim with the idea that what parents did to their children was less important than the way the child perceived it.

The abhorrence extends to politics. The left suspects that admitting the need for parents to provide consistent and loving care for children will mean chaining women to the kitchen sink again. The right dismisses a concern with early child care as compassionate, pinko nonsense that provides serial killers with the get-out clause that their parents were to blame.

Given this national horror, it is all the more remarkable that we suddenly have key politicians prepared to take on the issue. Crime prevention has been the spur.

Crime is caused principally by being male and young. The difference between criminal and non-criminal is mainly whether they had parents with low incomes who, largely as a result, provided inconsistent, abusive and neglectful care in early childhood. Combined with genetic disposition (which seems to account for one-third of non-violent criminality, but little or no violence), this causes conduct disorders leading to educational failure and unemployability.

To boost self-esteem such young men join or create lawbreaking subcultures that offer alternative hierarchies in which they can compete successfully – thumping people, robbing and drug abuse satisfy their need for status, as well as for money and kicks.

Tory home secretaries have always flatly denied these facts, dismissing them with aggressively philistine and illogical objections. Previous Labour home secretaries often focused on secondary parts of the argument, such as the direct impact of unemployment. Uniquely the present incumbent realises that the way to break the "cycle of deprivation" (as Keith Joseph correctly labelled the problem, despite believing its cause was defective genes) is by tackling the early parent-child relationship and the impact of low income.

Straw proposes two ways of doing this: by improving family benefits for low-income parents, and helping parents to learn how to help their children.

There is a precedent. As a psychiatric social worker and later, a psychoanalyst in the late Thirties, my mother (then Lydia Jacobs) was a pioneer of the Child Guidance Movement. It placed the parent-child relationship at the heart of social problems and created a nationwide network of state-funded centres for solving them.

But Child Guidance was not offered to under-fives, whereas Sure Start concentrates on the under-threes. Nor is Sure Start concerned with providing psychiatric treatment for damaged children – a principal role of child guidance – so much as mobilising and developing existing community resources to support and educate parents and, in the long term, reduce inequality.

Some of the help with parenting will be delivered direct by the state, mostly through Health Visitors and new family centres. But the most important aspect is that, unlike Child Guidance, it will put a significant sum into the voluntary parenting schemes that already exist.

Such programmes evolved largely without state subsidy and have bobbled along with inadequate funding. They usually help parents to help each other, and provide therapy and education.

Their cost-effectiveness has been known for years. The American HighScope project, for example, found that for every $1 spent by the state on early support £7 were saved later on; its alumni were not only much less criminal, they were liable to get educational qualifications and jobs, thereby contributing taxes and national insurance rather than draining the state of benefits and committing crimes.

Last week, an analysis assessing the costs and effectiveness of different approaches to crime management was published by the Home Office. The research was commissioned by the head of the Home Office Research Unit, Christopher Nuttall, an advocate of Sure Start-style programmes even under the Tories (who did their best to abolish his unit).

The study demonstrates the efficacy of many different approaches and suggests that the earlier preventative interventions occur in a child's life, the greater their cost-effectiveness. This is vital; Sure Start's £540m could easily have been misspent on schemes such as the Tories' Safer Cities programme, which reduced crime slightly but did nothing to prevent it.

I believe that targeting the early under-three parent-child relationship and the indirect impact of low income upon it, makes Sure Start the single most significant investment in our long-term welfare of the £56bn package launched by the Chancellor a fortnight ago.

But before I begin humming the tune to "Things can only get better", some words of warning from my mother. When she began working at the child guidance clinic in West Sussex, she recalls that "We believed we were going to change the world; we really believed that. Of course, we did not."

هكذا من الاصل

The hazards of a herbivore

Many vegetarians believe their diet is healthier than that of meat-eaters, as well as being morally superior. It ain't necessarily so. By Ben West

According to the Vegetarian Society, most of us will have rejected meat altogether by the year 2030. With so much publicity about how we treat our animals – and what we feed them – this is not so surprising. The only danger is that many of today's vegetarians fall *into the dangerous trap* of rejecting meat and fish from their diets without compensating for lost nutrients. When Jane Taylor, 54, a housewife from Witham, Essex, changed to a vegetarian diet she experienced constant tiredness, high blood pressure, weight gain, muscle and joint stiffness, abdominal pain and bloating. She also contracted Crohn's Disease, a chronic inflammatory disease affecting the gastrointestinal tract. In November 1996 she decided to seek help from a nutritionist.

In place of fish and meat she would often eat wheat products four times a day. Her diet was low in protein, vitamins and minerals. She was found to have wheat allergy and the nutritionist diagnosed deficiencies in iron, zinc and vitamins B6, B12 and D. She was put on a wheat-free diet rich in nuts, seeds, beans, whole grains, fresh fruit and vegetables.

"It was amazing," says Jane. "After a year I'd lost three stone, had no Crohn symptoms or muscle stiffness, I had more energy and my blood pressure had gone down."

Leandrina Cole, 33, an aromatherapist from Brockley in south London, also saw a nutritional therapist – Alison Loftus at London's Hale Clinic – in early January. She was getting increasingly stressed, and experiencing disrupted sleep and a lack of energy, PMS, water retention, dry skin, poor hair condition and frequent infections.

After detailed questioning, Alison was able to put these symptoms down to Leandrina's unbalanced vegetarian, then vegan, diet, where she abstained from meat, fish and dairy products. "I was found to be lacking in iron, zinc and vitamins B6, B12 and D," she says. "It was drastically affecting my ability to work. Alison put me on a detoxification diet for 14 days and then an improved diet with more whole grains, and vitamin and mineral supplements. It wasn't long before I began to feel much more energetic. The fluid retention went down, and my skin and hair have improved. I have a lot more stamina in general."

If a balanced diet is important for vegetarian adults, it is even more vital for their children. Alan Hackett, reader in community nutrition at John Moores University, Liverpool, has studied the effect of vegetarian diets on younger people.

Mr Hackett says: "One problem we found common to both the meat-eaters and vegetarians, was that they ate the same amount of fat. We suspect that the vegetarian children were eating convenience vegetarian foods, which are often full of fat. We also found 33 per cent of the vegetarians to be anaemic."

Earlier this year Dr Jackie Stordy, a research nutritionist at Surrey University, conducted a study of diets for children aged three months to a year. She found that four-fifths of the mothers were putting small children on a "nursery starvation diet" consisting of foods such as low-fat yogburts and fruit and vegetable purées instead of more traditional foods – partly because they believed that fruit and vegetables were "good" foods and meat was "bad".

Non-meat-eating can also be problematic for teenagers. Lyndell Costain, a spokesperson for the British Dietetic Association, says, "One in five teenagers doesn't eat meat, and one in three has an iron intake that risks anaemia. They don't realise that they have to replace meat with good sources of iron, sources that aren't necessarily going to be at the top of their lists of favourite foods." Another danger is missing out on dairy foods that contain vitamin B12. "Certainly people not having dairy products daily can be at risk," says Costain.

Although vitamin B12 deficiency is rare, Tom Sanders, professor of nutrition at King's College, London, claims that he has seen many cases of neurological damage caused by absence of this vitamin. He also has concerns about soya milk, another popular alternative for vegetarians. "Giving soya milk to children should be a last resort," he says, "as there's still a question mark over the phytoestrogens in it."

One common misconception is that processed vegetarian foods such as burgers, sausage rolls and prepared chilled foods are "healthier" than the real thing. Often they are not. It is simply a case of the food industry cashing in on the popularity of vegetarianism. Surrounding a lump of tofu with pastry to turn it into a pie cancels out many of the health benefits the tofu may provide. Also meat substitutes may require strong flavouring, and tend to be high in salt. Some contain more than twice as much fat, and nearly three times as much saturated fat, as meat.

There is some evidence suggesting that even balanced vegetarian diets do not significantly reduce some health risks. Part of a study by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, announced in December, found that the difference in levels of heart disease between vegetarians and meat-eaters is statistically insignificant. An earlier study by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine first suggested that vegetarians have a 40 per cent lower risk of developing cancer, but after further analysis this assumption was rejected.

There are many studies suggesting that a vegetarian diet is good for your health, but that may be because there are other differences between meat-eaters and vegetarians. Vegetarians, for example, are likely to have a healthier lifestyle; they do not drink or smoke as heavily.

The number of vegetarians has increased by 20 per cent in the last three years, and according to the Vegetarian Society, 5,000 people a week are switching. The problem is, how many of these will be embarking upon a varied and healthy way of eating? And how many will be encountering just as many health hazards as meat-eaters?

Leandrina Cole found out the hard way that her vegan diet was a danger to health. It lacked zinc, iron and and vitamins B6, B12 and D *Kalpesh Lathigra*

How to improve vegetarian and vegan diets

1 Introduce low-fat, high fibre beans and pulses (such as lentils and chickpeas) which provide essential amino acids.
2 Moderate intake of cheese, eggs and other dairy products.
3 Iron is less easily absorbed from plants than from meat so drink orange juice or eat vitamin C-rich foods like lightly cooked vegetables during meals.
4 Vegetarians get calcium from dairy products while vegan sources include fortified soya milk, tofu, nuts, grains, white breads and spinach.
5 Dairy, eggs and yeast extracts like Marmite provide Vitamin B12. Vegans can get B12 from vitamin supplements, yeast extracts, fortified soya milk and fortified cereals.
6 Vegetarians usually have ample protein sources but vegans need to obtain protein from a variety of plant sources, from cereals, pulses, fruit and vegetables.

Long waiting times for a little peace of mind

For women concerned about breast cancer, fast, efficient screening is a top priority. But getting the treatment you need is not that easy, as Jane Feinman discovered

IT DID not have to be Breast Cancer Awareness Month for me to worry about the hard, ping-pong-ball-sized growth that I discovered late last summer.

Some women know instinctively that they have breast cancer, and delay getting it confirmed by a doctor for up to a year. I *suspected* I was OK, but wanted the facts one way or the other as quickly as possible.

My GP referred me to the cancer surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital and was sympathetic to my fear of waiting. "Take the letter and go along to the clinic," he said. "They may see you straight away."

No such luck. I was given an appointment six weeks away and I calculated that, including the wait for the results of the biopsy, I would not know whether I was in the clear for almost two months. I prepared to put my life on hold.

Then my sister recommended the Quick Response Breast Clinic at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital's Well Woman Centre. Quick response. Well Woman. It sounded far more positive than waiting weeks to see a cancer doctor. I phoned and they told me that, provided my GP could fax over a referral letter, I could have an appointment the next day. I arrived at 10am and by lunch time I was walking down the Euston Road, wondering why I had never noticed before what a jolly, bustling place it is. Not only did I not have breast cancer, I no longer even had a breast lump.

The clinic is pioneered by the University College Hospital's cancer specialist, Professor Michael Baum, who aims to "triage" – that is, assess for seriousness – breast problems quickly so that cancer clinics are not flooded with frightened women whose risk of cancer is almost nil.

The nurse practitioner examined my lump during a half-hour consultation, after which she told me I was to have ultrasound and a mammogram. In fact everyone with a lump who is aged over 40 gets the tests, so the consultation, though reassuring, was probably over-long.

In any case, when she brought me a cup of tea after the consultation and asked me if a relative was with me, I immediately assumed the worst and spent the next hour or so in a barely controlled panic. It was only with the mammogram that the lump was revealed as a harmless cyst – and it completely disappeared when aspirated by the radiologist.

The service was, to say the least, impressive. I came away feeling not just relieved that I was well, but cosseted by a service that was both thorough and humane. It is the sort of clinic that the Department of Health would like to see in every health authority. But specialists say that these clinics will not work unless fundamental problems about breast care treatment are solved.

The main problem is the one identified by Baum – that far too many women are referred for investigation who do not have cancer or even the merest risk of the disease. A clinic such as the EGA's does not necessarily solve that problem. According to my GP, I was lucky to get an appointment within a day to the Rapid Response Clinic. Waiting times frequently lengthen to a not-so-rapid six or seven weeks.

In 1996, guidelines drawn up by the Breast Care Campaign and the Department of Health were sent out to GPs to improve referral patterns. But, except where health authorities have made a special effort to get their message across, the initiative has failed. The last two years have seen "a big growth in referrals and a big growth in non-cancer referrals", according to Robert Mansel, professor of surgery at the University of Wales College of Medicine, speaking at a recent Breast Care Campaign conference.

Women with breast pain account for a sizeable number of these "non-cancer referrals". It is a common condition – 66 per cent of working women have painful breasts at some time – and for many women the pain is severe enough to require time off work, and prevent them from hugging their children or husbands.

The good news is that pain is almost never a symptom of breast cancer. Simple anxiety accounts for a substantial number of referrals – some clinics report that referrals doubled in the two weeks after Linda McCartney's death.

Cysts in varying sizes account for about one in five non-cancer referrals and are "a normal part of breast ageing – rather like leaves on a tree going yellow", as one breast surgeon described it expressively last week. These are less easy to distinguish from tumours, and the guidelines state that they need investigation.

It is not clear, however, whether using specially trained nurses to carry out the initial examinations in clinics is the right way to proceed. In Edinburgh Royal Infirmary's one-stop clinic, for instance, four breast surgeons examine 20,000 women every year. They believe that their personal involvement is largely responsible for the 13 per cent difference in mortality for breast cancer between Edinburgh and nearby Fife. "We are the ones who take out cancerous lumps, so we know what they feel like. The biggest safety factor is our experience," says Mr Mike Dixon, an Edinburgh consultant breast surgeon.

East Surrey, another health authority with a pioneering breast clinic, is following the EGA's example and training nurse practitioners to carry out clinical examinations.

"The evidence suggests that nurse practitioners are at least as good as doctors," says Dr Graham Henderson, the health authority's consultant in public health medicine. He thought there could possibly be an element of protectionism in doctors not wanting nurses to get involved in examinations.

Women, however, are less bothered about being referred to a nurse practitioner rather than a specialist doctor, than about not being given a mammogram. My GP was of the same opinion. If I had had private health insurance last year, he says, he would have referred me for same-day mammography. "You could have got one within two hours at St John and St Elizabeth, the local private hospital – now that's what I call a quick response."

Still, with such a wide spectrum of interests, it is hardly surprising that doctors find it difficult to come up with the perfect service. The good news is that they are trying.

Jane Feinman was reassured by rapid response *Emma Boam*

Are we too trusting of the medical profession?

HEALTH CHECK

JEREMY LAURANCE

IS MY treatment really necessary, doctor? This may be a useful question to pose next time you visit the surgery after last week's revelations in the *British Medical Journal* that the blood product, human albumin, routinely administered for the past 50 years to patients suffering shock, burns or injuries, may have caused thousands of deaths.

The disturbing aspect of this is that because the treatment seemed so beneficial – replacing lost fluid with the protein-rich constituent of blood – no one bothered to check that it worked. How many other treatments have been around so long that they are an accepted part of the medical pantheon – beyond challenge?

When a team from the Cochrane Injuries Centre decided to review all the trials carried out on human albumin going back to the 1960s, they found there was no evidence that it helped the critically ill to survive and a "strong suggestion" it was killing some patients. It appears that albumin has a tendency to leak out of the capillaries, taking water with it and turning the tissues soggy. When this happens in the lungs, it is like drowning.

The history of medicine is littered with examples like this. Studies have shown that five of the ten operations most commonly undertaken in Britain are mostly useless or carried out inappropriately. Take tonsils. Those swollen, angry-looking organs at the back of so many young throats in the 1950s were seen by doctors as the cause of illness, not a sign that the body was successfully fending it off. Hundreds of thousands of children lost their tonsils in a surgical assault that, we now know, actually weakened their defence against infection rather than strengthening it.

The fashion for D&Cs – scraping of the lining of the womb – has followed a similar pattern. Often performed as a treatment for excessive menstrual bleeding, it has been described in the *BMJ* as "therapeutically useless and diagnostically inaccurate".

Wide variations in the number of hysterectomies performed has led to accusations that gynaecologists are doing the operation unnecessarily. The value of removing wisdom teeth and of inserting grommets – tiny valves put into the ear drum to help fluid drain from the middle ear – has also ben questioned. Yet more than 400,000 patients undergo these five procedures each year.

Various theories have been put forward to account for changes in practice. One of the unkindest is that they are driven by professional necessity. Once tonsillectomy started to go out of fashion, Ear, Nose and Throat surgeons found themselves with empty appointment books. The "discovery" of glue ear provided them with work, status and new source of income.

A bizarre example of this effect was the fashion for "total dental clearance" in the elderly. The fear was that elderly people were threatened by "focal sepsis", a local infection around a rotten tooth that could poison the blood and have very nasty consequences. Giving up what remained of their dentition seemed a small price to pay for escape from this threat.

But the idea had more to do with professionalising dentistry. A scientific theory about what dental clearance achieved allowed dentists to don white coats and get a leg up in the medical hierarchy.

One of the most serious charges made by "proper" doctors against practitioners of alternative medicine is that their treatments have never been subject to clinical trials. It is disturbing how often the same charge can be laid at orthodox medicine's door.

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MEDIA

The Court of Appeal has curbed the power of the Police Federation to claim heavy libel damages. By **John-Paul Flintoff**

Media fight back on police libel

For the modest cost of £2.43 a week, police officers have enjoyed comprehensive legal protection against libel *Kalpesh Lathigra*

THE SUBSCRIPTION costs just £2.43 a week. For that modest sum, police officers across the country are entitled to full legal support from the Police Federation. It is like legal aid for libel. After a winning streak of 96 defamation cases in a row, officers collected a grand total of £1.5m.

Police libel claims used to be called "garage actions", because when they were over a policeman could build a new garage. More recently, with damages for libel a little higher, they have been able to afford a conservatory. All they needed to do was to issue a writ and terrified publishers – most of them hard-up regional newspapers – would cough up. But the home improvements may be coming to an end, because police libel claims are no longer being settled without a fight.

Earlier this summer, a policeman issued a writ against a radical law centre in Liverpool, claiming that he had been libelled in a private letter to a senior officer. The case was due for trial in June, but shortly before that the Police Federation dropped the claim, and paid a sum towards the law centre's costs. The amount was minimal, but worse was to come.

This month the Court of Appeal finally rejected an action brought by five police officers against *The Guardian*. In 1992, *The Guardian* reported that eight officers (out of about 350) had been transferred from Stoke Newington station, following anti-corruption investigations. None of the policemen was mentioned by name. But three years later, the officers Bennett, Gillan, Goscomb, Mapp and Walton decided to sue, claiming they could be identified and had therefore been portrayed as corrupt. In January 1997 the High Court found in favour of *The Guardian*, so the police appealed. When that failed, the federation had to pick up the tab once again. The cost: about £400,000.

Libel claims were called garage actions … when they were over a policeman could build a new garage

Soon after the *Guardian* case, a judge in the High Court, Mr Justice Eady, ordered the Federation to pay still more after the trial of a case against Channel 4 collapsed. The jury, it seemed, would have to be discharged after the police officer's barrister made prejudicial remarks in his closing speech. Geoffrey Shaw QC commented that a particular witness had not appeared in court to give evidence on behalf of the defendant – just four days after writing to Channel 4's barrister, Adrienne Page, to say that the witness's evidence was inadmissible. The police appealed, but without success. To Shaw's immense embarrassment, the jury was indeed discharged, on 23 July. (The case, concerning David Jessel's miscarriage-of-justice programme *Trial and Error*, is likely to go for retrial later this year.)

Taking into account the cost of the federation's own lawyers, the bill for these cases is certain to reach more than £1m. That is an awful lot of weekly subscriptions from members. So perhaps it is time for the federation to become a little less zealous in pursuing claims on behalf of individual officers.

The federation's solicitors, since 1958, have been Russell Jones & Walker, one of the biggest law firms operating across the country, with 128 lawyers working out of offices in several major cities. RJW also acts for several trade unions, and has traditionally been associated with the political left. (One partner, Andrew Dismore, left the firm after winning a seat in last year's general election.) But that has not stopped it taking on the liberal media if they criticise the police.

As all newspapers and broadcasters are only too aware, libel lawyers are by their nature aggressive. But RJW say opponents, is more so than most. "They go at it like terriers," says one. They take every opportunity to score points. But a spokesman for RJW says: "Aggression is not a word in our vocabulary. We are assertive on behalf of clients."

"The thing you worry about," says Martin Cruddace, a Mirror Group lawyer, "is that even though no one has been named, they're expert at finding someone who identified A, B and C. So if you mention a group at a particular station that can mean you get writs from several of them. This does piss off the journalists who write the story, but you've got to be careful even when the story comes from the police themselves."

RJW routinely collects several statements from people who claim to have identified a police officer unnamed in a story. "They go and ask police officers who they should use for witness statements," says a frequent opponent. They go to family, friends and colleagues, "people who by definition know the person in the story". Those statements are usually collected before the writ is served, so the stakes are high even before a claim begins.

And claims frequently do not begin until the last possible moment. By this stage reporters may have lost their notes and forgotten crucial information. This delay, says a solicitor, Caroline Kean of Wiggin & Co, is unacceptable. "If you are claiming that your reputation has been terribly hurt," she explains, "you should have hurried up to fix it."

But sometimes it is difficult for police to launch proceedings immediately. By issuing a writ, they may effectively give themselves a financial interest in the outcome of any outstanding criminal trials. In fact, say RJW, it has become difficult for officers to launch any action at all – because the time limit for issuing writs was lowered in 1996 from three years to just one.

That explanation does not cover the recent *Guardian* case, however. Why did that take so long to launch? After all, "these are men who say they have been horribly wronged by a serious and untrue libel", says Geraldine Proudler, of Olswang, *The Guardian*'s solicitors.

Perhaps it is time for the federation to recognise that it has occasionally been over-zealous

RJW prefers not to comment on individual cases, but its spokesman insists: "We will normally issue a writ as soon as is practicable."

But who, inside the federation, really decides which cases deserve backing? Outsiders are baffled. The federation's chairman, Fred Broughton, declines to discuss this in detail, beyond stating that the federation "will defend the reputation of officers who are falsely accused, and the decision will be based on the best legal advice available". RJW's spokesman says: "We turn down more cases than we pursue; we don't engage in speculative actions."

Martin Cruddace says the climate for libel has become more favourable for media owners, and not just against police claims. Two years ago, Elton John sued the *Sunday Mirror*, and won – but his damages were reduced on appeal. Since then, says Cruddace, media owners have been confident that they need no longer pay out more than about £110,000, even if juries make an award of, say, £250,000.

This has given papers and broadcasters renewed confidence. "So now we say, let's see what happens in court," he says. "In the end, you have to protect the interest of shareholders and not give tax-free income to police officers even if a story is true. But it's up to newspapers to fight."

Radio 1 is the key to success

ANALYSIS

PAUL MCCANN

THE BBC denies that it is downgrading spending on Radios 4 and 5 Live in favour of Radio 1, but it is true that the future strategy for radio, unveiled by Matthew Bannister to staff last week, needs to concentrate marketing funds on the pop channel.

BBC radio's share of total radio listening is overwhelmingly dominated by Radio 1. When the station hired Chris Evans, Radio 1 and all BBC listening share went right up. Equally, when he left, both Radio 1 and all BBC network radio went straight down.

This close correlation between Radio 1's listening share and all BBC radio share is a function of the size of Radio 1's audience and the number of hours its audience spends with the channel on in the background.

It is also down to the fact that if Radio 1's audience is not listening to Radio 1 it goes straight to commercial stations, and lessens the BBC's share. If Radio 4's or Radio 3's audiences are not listening to those BBC stations, they are not listening to radio at all.

Only recently has the curve of Radio 1 and BBC radio listening started to separate slightly. The new, young male audience being attracted by Radio 5 Live and the ageing baby-boomers moving to Radio 2's new adult rock output are coming from commercial stations and can help smooth out the corporation's dips if Radio 1 is suffering.

The knee-jerk reaction to this spending priority has been that somehow middle-class listeners are being abandoned: in the *Beano* world of *The Sunday Times*, Lord Snooty and the middle classes do not listen to popular music. It is also suggested that spending licence-payers' money on advertising for Radio 1 is somehow going against the BBC's public service remit. In fact, promoting Radio 1 is good for Britain, and is as public service-oriented as pumping out opera on Radio 3 to four old men in Surrey.

By showcasing new talent the BBC encourages all British popular music

As the competition from commercial radio increases – there will be another 50 new stations on air within four years, most of them offering music – Radio 1's position will need ever more defending. This is where the advertising money promised by Bannister's strategy comes in. Just under £5m, or 3 per cent of the network radio programme budget, will be shaved off for live productions across all stations and for more advertising and marketing for Radios 1, 2 and 5 Live.

Without a station such as Radio 1 dedicated to playing new bands, British music radio stations would be as ossified as those in America. There, despite hundreds of stations to choose from all you ever hear are marathon weekends of Led Zeppelin and The Beatles, to appeal to adult audiences and advertisers. New music on those stations means anything recorded by Phil Collins after he left Genesis.

And it is not only BBC radio generally and a young audience who benefit from a strong Radio 1.

By showcasing new talent the BBC encourages all British popular music. It was thanks to Radio 1's Sounds of the Cities tour a few years ago that a band called Oasis was first given air time. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport admits that it thinks Radio 1 contributes to Britain's balance of payments by keeping a quick turnover of musical styles and trends, to throw up the Oases and Prodigys that make money world-wide.

Popular music is where Britain's ethnic minorities, urban tribes and adolescents come together. DJs such as Tim Westwood and Chris Goldfinger play music that allows the BBC, for once, to cross over from the mainstream. To suggest that supporting the station that does all that is not in the public service is to have a narrow view of the British public.

THE WORD ON THE STREET

THERE IS nothing more forgiving than a washed-up politician looking for a column to punt his views and earn a crust. Which must be one explanation of why the former minister of fun David Mellor is talking to *The People* newspaper about writing a column. It was *The People* that broke the Antonia de Sancha story in 1992 that eventually ended Mr Mellor's ministerial career. The paper benefited from the tapping of a phone used by Mr Mellor during the affair and was happy to describe him as their "Rat of the Week". Mr Mellor's column is proof that there never will be a "last chance saloon" for the tabloids as long as the papers have the money to pay for both out-of-work actresses and over-sexed Chelsea fans.

SOME OF the things Rosie Boycott is doing to *The Express* have no doubt shocked some of her more conservative readers. Some of her columnists in particular must be scandalising all those little old homophobes in Leeds who made up many of its readers. But that is nothing compared

to what some newsagents have done to them. When Ms Boycott arrived at *The Express* one of her first acts was to dispense with *The Sport* – a stand-alone sports section. Some newsagents had got used to inserting the section with people's other newspapers, so when it stopped arriving many started inserting something else called *The Sport* – that is to say, the soft-porn newspaper owned by the pornographer David Sullivan.

WHILE ON the subject of silicone, it is worth asking how Holy Smoke! will contribute to ITV's much-hyped efforts to attract the middle classes. It is a late-night religious programme that will ask such heavyweight, Joan Bakewell-type questions as: "Is it ever OK to kill?". But the real shaker for fans of the Thora Hird and Harry Secombe school of religious programmes is the first episode.

This will feature the page three star Melinda Messenger (pictured left) talking about her Buddhist beliefs. Sometimes ITV is simply too weird for satire, but that is what you get when you let the makers of Gladiators – LWT – do religion. We should be relieved that Gladiators does not include real Christians.

SYMPATHY MUST be felt for *Gladiators*' newest recruit. While the rest of them are known by names such as Wolf, Saracen, Lightning and Hunter, the latest to join has been dubbed Diesel. Look forward to a line-up next year including Butane, Paraffin and SuperUnleaded.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

John-Paul Flintoff

libel

The maturing of America

Tales of the City is back, minus the moral backlash.

By Meg Carter

Saga of the City: it has taken five years, bnt the second series of Armistead Maupin's tales is at last being broadcast

LINE UP a best-selling author, a cult series of books, some of the biggest names in film and television, a major British hroadcaster and a US network, and you would be forgiven for thinking you had a sure-fire recipe for TV success. But not even this could prevent a five-year delay in the arrival of *More Tales of the City*, the second TV series based on Armistead Maupin's acclaimed novels, which finally goes out on Channel 4 from Saturday 11 August).

"A saga in its own right" is how the series' LA-based executive producer, Alan Poul, describes the battle to get *More Tales* on air. It is also a cautionary tale of the perils and pitfalls of developing quality, grown-up drama with potentially risqué content for mainstream TV.

The story began in 1976 when Maupin, then a young journalist, began a serial for the *San Francisco Chronicle* set in the city's free-wheeling Bohemian community. There was naive Mary-Ann Singleton, fresh from Cleveland, who falls in with B disparate assortment of characters including the landlady Mrs Madrigal, a closet transsexual, a lesbian roommate and a group of nice young men – all of whom, like her, are looking for Mr Right.

Intricate plots featuring gay and straight characters interwove friendship, love, secrets, betrayal, crimes and passion. Oh, and dope-smoking. The columns led to six novels, an international following and comparisons with Dickens.

Ten years later, TV rights to the books were picked up by the UK production company Working Title. Simon Wright, head of TV at Working Title, which developed the series with its US sister company, Propaganda, recalls: "We approached Channel 4 and they were desperate to do it. But we had no firm commitment from any US broadcaster."

British and American attitudes to Maupin were clearly different. "We perceived [Maupin] as a rounded writer who happens to include gay characters. America perceived him as the country's leading gay writer," he explains. "Yet this isn't a gay soap or propaganda. Some characters are gay, others not. It is more about the sexual revolution in the Seventies."

Either way, liberal-minded East and West coast TV execs were fearful of Middle America's response. Their instincts were right. When *Tales of the City*, whose entire $8m (£5m) budget was eventually put up by Channel 4, was aired by the publicly funded network PBS in January 1994, all hell was let loose.

"Although it achieved record-breaking ratings on PBS there was a lot of flak from our friends on the religious right," says Poul. Its de*piction of homosexual affection and* drug use was condemned by the Oklahoma State legislature. Chattanooga public TV pulled the series an hour before transmissioo after re*ceiving a telephone bomb threat.* Other southern state law-makers attempted to suspend funding for their local PBS affiliates. The American Family Association, meanwhile, was baying for blood.

"There was a vicious backlash. There were even discussions in the Senate over society's moral decay if a publicly funded broadcaster could show two men kissing in prime time," Wright says. PBS, which had *expressed interest in co-funding a* second series, abandoned Its plans to cries of "Shame!" by the mainstream press.

"Channel 4 made it clear from the start that it would be interested in a second series, but only if co-financed by the US, as it was American entertainment based on American books, with an American cast, shot in the US," says Poul. The *project, despite Tales winning the* prestigious Peabody Award in the US, looked doomed. But then discussions began with the fledgeling American cable TV network Showtime – part of the media giant Viacom, *owner of MTV.*

It took a further four years to secure the full funding for series two. Showtime and Channel 4 were eventually joined by Hallmark Entertainment and the Canadian *production company La Fete.* Production moved from California to Canada – much of *More Tales* was shot in Montreal. Most of the original cast was reassembled and shooting finally began last July. The series *debuted* in the US on Showtime in June – with no moral backlash.

More Tales has an adult TV MA-rating (mature audiences) in the US and, despite being more explicit *than series one, still seems demure* by late-Nineties TV standards. Showtime is pleased with ratings for the show, which was nominated for five Emmy awards last week.

Planning has now begun for ser*ies three. Although funding is yet to* be confirmed, Working Title and Propaganda are confident. "Undoubtedly, attitudes in the US have softened over the past five years," Wright observes. Gay characters and *issues now regularly feature* in prime-time shows – as typified by Ellen DeGeneres' decision to come out on her own show last year.

Things have changed, then. But how much? An interesting measure *will be if and when PBS latest* advertising slogan: "If PBS won't do it, who will?") shows a little backboe.

The House of Lords' last hope

PITCH

THE HOUSE OF LORDS IS UNDER THREAT. A PR EXPERT AND AN ADVERTISING AGENT EXPLAIN HOW THE BELEAGUERED PEERS COULD GET POPULAR OPINION BEHIND THEM

The public relations firm: Evie Soames, director of public affairs, Charles Barker BSMG.

There are a number of ways to we could improve the chamber's image:

■ Withdrawal of the daily allowance for hereditary peers. With an announcement. we'd package it up as being a big step into the new century, and make it sound as popular and radical as we could. Then, only those peers who were committed to a particular subject of *legislation would attend* the debates, while those that attend just to pick up the daily allowance and, though they don't have anything positive to contribute, vote nonetheless, will *stay away.*

■ A change of name. Maybe the House of Lords is oot the most popular, user-friendly description; perhaps it should be called *the Second Chamber.*

■ Appoint a spokesperson or figurehead. The Commons has the Speaker to defend its rights and reputation, hut the Lords *have never had a figurehead.* Maybe that role could go to an enhanced chairman of committees – a senior non-party figure in the Lords at the moment who has nothing to do with the *executive.* With a staff, he should make sure the Lords are not in a passive role as far as the coverage the BBC and other hroadcast media give to them in their "Last Week In Committee"-type programmes.

■ Play up some of the issues over the last session on which they have been more representative of public opinion than the *Government* – on *tuition fees,* say, or predatory pricing in the newspaper market. 68 per cent of the population, according to a MORI poll, did wish to see the Government legislate against predatory pricing in the national broadsheet market. From time to time, the Lords do represent popular opinion, because, they do not have to kow-tow to their party line.

The ad agency: Larry Barker, Creative Director, BMP.DDB.

With advertising, you can do either of two things:

■ Look at its heritage – go into *the past and find out the things* that wouldn't have happeoed if the Lords had not been there. I'm sure there must be cases of great pieces of legislation that would have died had it not been *for the Lords keeping them* going. You need to muddy the waters. to try and find things that make the House of Lords seem more libertarian than the Commons and distract people *from the current issue. This is* crisis management advertising; you've got to quickly alter people's perceptions.

■ Stir up the emotions that are *around it* – give it a bit of warmth. There's a lot of history there, and the English like their history. Do a big emotional number on it: say that it's part of our heritage and we couldn't *possibly lose it. Hopefully,* that will gloss over the fact that they're a hunch of old decrepit nutters . You could reverse the "thin end of the wedge" thing and say something like: "If we get rid of this, what's next? The Queen? All the things we hold dear?" You'd be looking to raise the spectre of England as a republic with B president.

INTERVIEWS BY SCOTT HUGHES

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Can the *NS* gain political clout – and circulation – by attacking Blair? **Paul McCann** asks its editor

New Labour, New Statesman

SPECULATION ABOUT the future of the *New Statesman* is as long-standing a political tradition as the summer reshuffle.

But now that the official opposition to No 10 Downing Street is most often seen to be No 11 Downing Street, the *New Statesman* has an opportunity not just to benefit from a Labour Government, but to be a player in it.

Now is make or break time for the magazine. It has a centre-left government, its last editor increased circulation after years of decline and its owner is a member of the Government.

Peter Wilby, the editor since May, has the opportunity to grasp a prize that has eluded the *NS* for decades.

Outside the magazine it was widely believed that he was appointed, by his friend and the previous editor Ian Hargreaves, because he could deliver the right political formula to give the paper an edge.

The theory is that the *Spectator* made editorial and circulation gains by being able to attack John Major from the right. Wilby, some people hope, will be able to attack Blair from the left and thus give the NS some political clout.

For some in the upper echelons of government that also means dragging Wilby and the *NS* into the struggle between Blair and Brown for the soul of the party. To some, the fact that Geoffrey Robinson, a member of Brown's Treasury team, owns the *NS* means that the whole paper is in his camp.

"There is a window of opportunity here," says Wilby. "But the old left and right divisions are becoming increasingly fluid. They are in fact a bad guide to what is going on.

"It is true that papers such as the *Spectator* haven't got a particularly interesting position from which to attack Blair. But I wouldn't say we will be further to the left of New Labour.

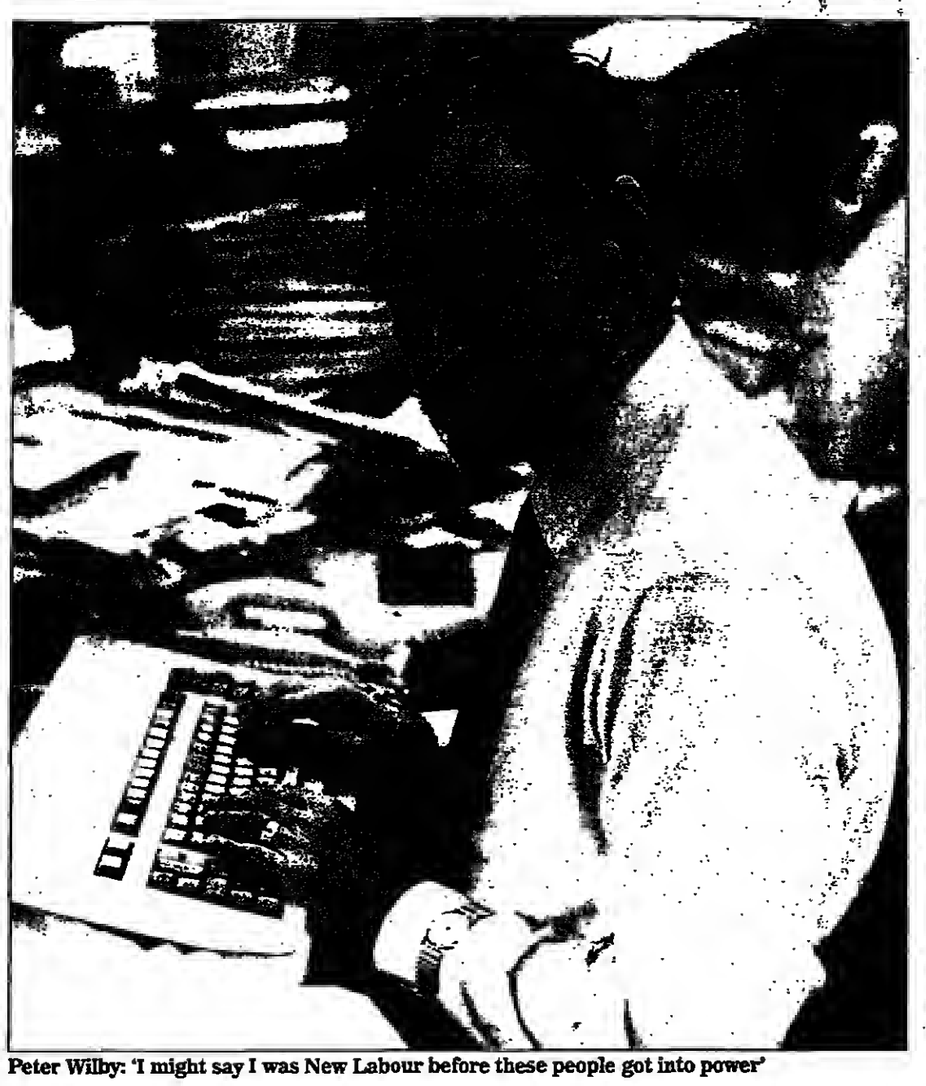
"Stephen Glover [a media commentator at the *Spectator* and *Daily Mail*] said I was old Labour through and through and, to prove it, said I wore a raincoat. The only time he's seen me in a raincoat was at a Blackpool conference in October and the only reason he wasn't wearing a raincoat was because he was in a chauffeur-driven car."

"My personal politics are more complex than just old Labour. I was in favour of student loans when Blair was probably in short trousers. I have long been in favour of an independent central bank and I accept the need for a radical reform of the welfare state. I may say I was New Labour before these people were in power.

"I do believe in creating a more equal society, which sometimes doesn't seem to be very high on the New Labour agenda, but my views are a mixture.

"As to being part of some great manoeuvrings between Brown and Blair, I know nothing about it. I have once met Geoffrey Robinson, who as a cabinet minister has to put his interests in a blind trust. So he takes no active part in the paper.

"I am just a humble journalist who applied for a job and got it. As to differences between Brown and Blair, I am not sure I could put my finger on what they are and I certainly wouldn't know what side I was on."



Peter Wilby: 'I might say I was New Labour before these people got into power'

Wilby, who is universally liked by colleagues for his shambolic amiability, is as keen to talk about the editorial changes he has planned for his paper as its place in the Westminster firmament.

He denies that the cover story declaring the convicted murderer Sion Jenkins innocent earlier this month was part of a deliberate strategy to garner publicity.

"Bob Woffinden, who wrote the piece, is an experienced investigative reporter. If he thinks a miscarriage of justice has occurred, he deserves a hearing.

"I will publish things because they are interesting, and because they persuade people to buy the paper. But that is not the same as a conscious strategy of looking for things that will attract publicity."

Instead Wilby, who was books editor of the *NS* before becoming editor, plans to increase sales by fattening up the back half of the magazine: "The back half, the non-political pages, is currently just five pages of books and five pages of art. The paper will remain primarily a political journal of the left but, that said, it should also be a cultural and social journal. We should define politics in the broadest sense and to do that there will be a new-look magazine in the autumn.

"I am convinced that there is a market for a weekly journal of politics and culture and the *New Statesman* can get much more of that market. I don't see any reason why we cannot move from somewhere in the 20,000s to somewhere in the 30,000s in the next few years. Why shouldn't circulation naturally increase to more than 50,000?"

IF I RULED THE AIRWAVES

VERITY LAMBERT, INDEPENDENT PRODUCER AT CINEMA VERITY, LOOKS AT SOME GROUNDBREAKERS

I HAVE chosen a line-up of programmes which all, I think, broke new ground. And to start with, I'd have to have *Monty Python's Flying Circus*.

Everything about it was extraordinary. Characters such as Mrs Jean-Paul Sartre were so inventive, and I do think much of the comedy we see today – Harry Enfield, *The Fast Show* – came out of it. *Monty Python* sparked off a whole different way of looking at comedy, which these shows have built on. It was ridiculous, anarchic, and it dealt with things that people hadn't really dealt with before.

My second programme, *Hill Street Blues*, was absolutely groundbreaking in terms of its format and it was, as far as I can see, the first multi-stranded series, as opposed to a soap. It really gave you the feeling of a police station where there was more than one thing happening at a time, unlike most of what you saw on British television. It was complex, and the characters were wonderful. *Dixon of Dock Green* had been all very well, but here you did feel you had been injected into the middle of a busy police station.

I have a particular feeling for *Rock Follies* because it was something that I commissioned. Howard Schuman, the writer, and Andrew Brown, the producer, had devised something that reflected the lives of a group of women who were successful in spite of the fact that they were exploited by men. The three principals, Julie Covington, Charlotte Cornwell and Rula Lenska, were wonderful. We never did any exterior filming; it was all done on videotape inside the studio, which gave *Rock Follies* a non-naturalistic, stylised look that worked very well. And the use of music, by Andy Mackay of Roxy Music, woven into the narrative was new, too.

Next, I have picked *7 Up*, Michael Apted's film for Granada which, in 1964, interviewed a group of seven-year-olds and decided to come back to them every seven years thereafter. I can't think of any medium but television that could do that. The fact that the most recent instalment – *42 Up* – was shown on BBC 1 because ITV couldn't find a place in its schedule, is a sad reflection of today's television.

My final choice, *The Naked Civil Servant*, was innovative in the sense that it dealt with homosexuality. It had been turned down by every television company – apart from Thames, who finally made it – on the basis that its content would be offensive. But, when it was transmitted, out of the many, many calls that were received, only three of them came from people who'd been offended.

What I am really drawn to in it is the comedy. I truly believe you can say a lot more about serious issues if you treat them in a comic way. It was irreverent, and it really reflected the way Quentin Crisp is: cocking a snook at the world and saying: "Here I am; I am what I am and I'm perfectly happy." John Hurt's performance was superb, and it was beautifully directed by Jack Gold.

INTERVIEW BY SCOTT HUGHES

Adapted by: Maxton Weaver
Producer: Phil Welch
Director: Bill Hartston

19.30 Monty Python's Flying Circus
20.00 Hill Street Blues
21.00 Rock Follies
22.00 7 Up
23.00 The Naked Civil Servant

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Miss Samantha Hicks
P+L SYSTEMS LIMITED
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Telephone: 01423 861226
Fax: 01423 863497
http://www.pandl.co.uk
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P+L SYSTEMS

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IT, Science, Engineering

Tuesday
Media, Marketing, Sales

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Finance, Legal, Secretarial

Thursday
Education, Graduate

Sunday
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Don't forget to mention The Independent when replying to adverts

To advertise in this section please call
Anita Cassidy on **0171 293 2301** or
Ransome Kolaru on **0171 293 2332**

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New Films

THE GINGERBREAD MAN (15)
Director: Robert Altman
Starring: Kenneth Branagh, Embeth Davidtz
Kenneth Branagh plays Rick Magruder, a cocky little jack rabbit of an adulterous attorney in Robert Altman's disappointing take on the John Grisham novel. He celebrates his victory in a case against the cops by spending the night with a waitress (Davidtz), but soon gets drawn deeper into her world when she asks for protection from her demented Pa (Robert Duvall), and his gang of survivalist bath-dodgers. *CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Barbican Screen, Odeon (Camden Town, Kensington, Marble Arch, Swiss Cottage), UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End*

Boyd Tonkin

THE CASTLE (15)
Director: Rob Sitch
Starring: Michael Caton, Anne Tenney
When his family home is threatened with demolition to make way for an airport, truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Caton) decides to fight back and stand up for his rights. File under quirky Australian kitsch. *CW: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon (Kensington, Swiss Cottage), UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Fulham Road, Trocadero)*

DANCE OF THE WIND (U)
Director: Rajan Khosa
Starring: Kitu Gidwani, Bhaveen Gosain
Indian TV star Kitu Gidwani plays Pallavi, a singer of Hindustani classical music who dries up on stage following the death of her mother. The delicate music and stately camerawork help build a hypnotic atmosphere as Pallavi tries to come to terms with her bereavement and regain her voice. *CW: Renoir*

HANA-BI (18)
Director: Takeshi Kitano
Starring: Takeshi Kitano, Ren Osugi
A violent yet elegiac portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge by his traumatic personal life. Hardly a thriller, it's more concerned with existential crisis than the nuts and bolts of the climactic bank robbery. *CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green*

LA GRANDE ILLUSION (U)
Director: Jean Renoir
Starring: Jean Gabin, Pierre Fresnay
Re-issued in a restored print, Renoir's tender 1937 classic has WWI PoW Pierre Fresnay finding he has more in common with his courteous German captor, Erich Von Stroheim, than his proletarian comrades. *CW: Screen on the Hill*

THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)
Director: Greg Mottola
Starring: Hope Davis, Stanley Tucci
Worried that her publisher husband (Tucci) may be having an affair, Eliza (Davis) confides in her parents, only to find that the whole family insists on accompanying her to Manhattan to confront him. Unerring wit and unexpected compassion in this hugely accomplished indie gem. *CW: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin (Fulham Road, Haymarket)*

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)
Director: Frédérik Du Cheu
Starring: (the voices of) Gary Oldman, Cary Elwes
Arthurian adventure with an edge of true weirdness, courtesy of Oldman's renegade knight, Ruber, who comes on like a Cockney psychopath. *CW: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Chelsea, Trocadero), Warner Village West End*

PAULIE: A PARROT'S TALE (U)
Director: John Roberts
Starring: Tony Shalhoub, Gena Rowlands
Once the muse of indie legend John Cassavetes, Gena Rowlands here works with a talking parrot in this likeable kids' movie – well, that's showbusiness. *CW: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Fulham Road, Trocadero), Warner Village West End*

John Wrathall

The Independent Recommends

Film Ryan Gilbey

WOLFGANG BECKER'S Life Is All You Get *(left)*, a tale of love and hope in a climate of Aids, unemployment and broken homes in modern Berlin, is one of this year's most surprising films. It doesn't promise very much, which may be one of the reasons why it works so well; it's grainy, unassuming nature makes Becker's flights of fantasy all the more striking. Our own Ricky Tomlinson puts in an appearance as an ageing teddy boy, but he's just one of an array of eccentrics and misfits who make the Berlin streets seem at once exotic and forbidding.
On general release
Try Star Kid for your more demanding youngsters. It's a diverting and witty adventure about a boy who finds a giant cybersuit and climbs inside. It credits its audience with intelligence and asks only the most pertinent questions. Such as: where exactly is the zipper on a giant cybersuit?
Ritzy, Brixton, London SW2 (0171-737 2121) 10.30am today and Thursday

Art Richard Ingleby

AS AUGUST approaches, many commercial galleries shut up shop altogether, while those that do stay open opt for mixed shows of summer stock. One of this summer's best selections is Beaux Art Gallery's Take 3 *(right)*, three groups of work from older (or dead) painters, younger painters and sculptors. In particular, look out for fine works by Patrick Heron and William Scott in the first category.
Beaux Arts Gallery, 22 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-437 5799) to 5 Sept
William Scott is also on show at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, which is staging a major retrospective of paintings and drawings. Scott, one of the most influential British artists of the Fifties, played a key role in the flourishing of abstract art in this country and forged important links with the wider world, exhibiting regularly in Europe and America. This looks like being an important exhibition and a good excuse to take a trip to Dublin.
Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (010 353 1 612 9900) to 1 Nov

Theatre David Benedict

CABARET was not their first show, but it's probably still their most famous. Kander and Ebb's adaptation of Christopher Isherwood's Berlin stories launched them into the musical theatre stratosphere and when Bob Fosse made the movie version, their reputations went stratospheric. Mind you, despite its very considerable merits – from the imaginative cinematic handling of stage material to the casting of never-better Michael York – the film is fatally flawed. Liza Minnelli *(right)* radiates such solid-gold stardom that you can't imagine what on earth she's doing in the Kit-Kat Club. New York is currently swooning to Sam Mendes's small-scale production; Newbury theatre-goers, meanwhile, can sample an even more intimate production.
Watermill Theatre, Newbury (01635 46044) to 22 Aug

Pop Tim Perry

LED BY Mark Knopfler, The Notting Hillbillies *(below)* continue to bring roots-flavoured rock with superb individual instrumental mastery to this short residency. Tickets are £20, but for that you get two sets and a much better setting to appreciate Knopfler's guitar skills than the arenas of the Dire Straits years. Standing-room only for these last few nights but that shouldn't stop it being a laid-back atmosphere with memorable music.
Ronnie Scott's, Frith Street, London W1 (0171-439 0747) to 1 Aug, 7.30pm

Cuba add a new zest and dimension to the dance floor by mixing big beats with wonderful bass-driven funk, a touch of hip-hop, mad samples and a delve into the deep blues of the American south. With a lively stage presence thanks to a rotating cast of musicians, these Brixtonians are one of the most exciting packages to emerge this year.
The Borderline, off Monette Street, London W1 (0171-734 2095) 8pm

General Release

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)
Feature-length adventure for the big, jolly dinosaur. Ideal for the undemanding pre-school viewer, an endurance test for anyone else. *CW: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Chelsea, Trocadero)*

CITY OF ANGELS (12)
Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal (Meg Ryan). *CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon (Kensington, Marble Arch), UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

DARK CITY (15)
Urban nightmare starring Rufus Sewell, William Hurt, Kiefer Sutherland and Richard O'Brien. *CW: Rio Cinema, Virgin Trocadero*

DEEP IMPACT (12)
A meteor the size of New York is on a collision course with the Earth in this heavy-handed disaster movie. *CW: Phoenix Cinema, Plaza*

GODZILLA (PG)
The team which cooked up *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures. In this case, their touch has deserted them. *CW: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon (Camden Town, Kensington, Marble Arch, Swiss Cottage), Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Chelsea, Fulham Road)*

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)
Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical. *CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Virgin Trocadero*

KISS OR KILL (18)
Australian road movie-cum-serial-killer drama. *CW: ABC Swiss Centre*

KURT & COURTNEY (15)
Documentary investigating the death of Kurt Cobain. *CW: Screen on Baker Street, Warner Village West End*

LIFE IS ALL YOU GET (DAS LEBEN IST EINE BAUSTELLE) (18)
See The Independent Recommends, right. CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Minema

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)
After years of churning out sub-standard animated features, this sprightly adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story – re-released for the summer holidays – began a string of hits for the newly rejuvenated Disney Studios. Pleasantly jazzy holiday fare. *CW: Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon (Kensington, Marble Arch, Swiss Cottage), Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Chelsea, Trocadero), Warner Village West End*

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)
A warm, subtle comedy starring John Hurt as a reclusive widower who becomes obsessed with a young film actor (Jason Priestley). The movie is essentially concerned with the tentative relationship between art and life, and takes great care in tracing the areas where they overlap. *CW: Chelsea Cinema, Metro, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Virgin Haymarket*

MAD CITY (15)
A despairingly simplistic drama in which Dustin Hoffman's weaselly reporter chances upon a hostage situation in a museum, where ex-employee John Travolta has produced a gun in an effort to get his job back. With Alan Alda, Mira Kirshna and Ted Levine. *CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin (Fulham Road, Trocadero), Warner Village West End*

MIMIC (15)
Ingenious science-fiction-horror fable in which Mira Sorvino plays a doctor who successfully combats a virus by developing a rival cockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carriers. *CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

MOJO (15)
Mojo is set in a mythologised 1950s Soho. The film never entirely escapes its theatrical roots, but it concentrates on sexual tension in a way that American crime movies generally shy away from. *CW: Plaza, Warner Village West End*

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)
Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds his flatmate Jennifer Aniston's dream of wedding vows and a joint burial plot by being gay. The film is like a primer for viewers who don't think they know what makes gay people tick, and though it can be very funny and charming, it has all the subtlety of a party political broadcast. With Nigel Hawthorne. *CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon (Kensington, West End)*

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)
Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. Chow plays a hitman with a conscience who finds himself pursued by both the police and by the mob's "replacement killers". First-time director Antoine Fuqua has made a name for himself directing pop promos, but his style is merely second-band Tony Scott. *CW: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Trocadero*

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)
Now too old and craggy to be leaping from moving trains, action man Harrison Ford here tries to reinvent himself as a romantic lead. Ford plays a boozy pilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche) on a remote island. *CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon (Kensington, Marble Arch, Swiss Cottage, West End), UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea*

SLIDING DOORS (15)
Romantic comedy set in the space-time continuum, sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off into two separate realities at the same time. *CW: ABC Baker St, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road*

SLING BLADE (15)
Intelligent and unsettling drama starring writer-director Billy Bob Thornton as Carl, a mentally disabled man who is released into the outside world after spending his life in an institution. Although Thornton is free of the indulgences of most actors who are called upon to portray a disabled character, the film sanitises Carl's personality. *CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema*

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (TA'M-E-GUILASS) (PG)
Thanks to highly naturalistic performances, the joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or is a hypnotic and ultimately moving experience. *CW: ABC Swiss Centre*

THE THIEF (15)
In his investigation into the psyche of a six-year-old Russian boy in the aftermath of WWII, writer-director Pavel Chukhrai tries for the unforced poetry pioneered by Louis Malle in *Lacombe, Lucien*. Unfortunately, he doesn't quite pull it off. *CW: Renoir*

TOUCH (15)
Paul Schrader's adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel turns a breezy satire into a heavy-handed investigation into religious conviction. *CW: Plaza*

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
Dumb but winning comedy about a wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else. *CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon (Camden Town, Haymarket), UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End*

Cinema
West End

ABC BAKER STREET
(0171-935 9772) ⊖ Baker Street **Godzilla** 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm **Sliding Doors** 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0171-930 0631) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **As Good As It Gets** 2pm, 5pm, 8pm **The Big Lebowski** 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm **Jackie Brown** 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.45pm **Live Flesh** 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-437 3561) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **Different For Girls** 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm **Lolita** 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0171-836 6279) ⊖ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road **The Gingerbread Man** 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm **Hana-Bi** 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0171-439 4470) ⊖ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus **Deconstructing Harry** 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm **Kiss Or Kill** 3.50pm **Life Is All You Get** 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm **Shall We Dance?** 3.35pm, 8.30pm **Sling Blade** 1.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm **The Taste Of Cherry** 1.10pm, 8.10pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0171-636 6148) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road **City Of Angels** 1.10pm, 6.35pm **Dr Dolittle** Thu 9.25pm **Godzilla** 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm **The Object Of My Affection** 3.50pm, 9.20pm **The Wedding Singer** 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-382 7000) ⊖ Moorgate/Barbican **The Daytrippers** 6.15pm, 8.40pm **The Gingerbread Man** 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) ⊖ Sloane Square **Love And Death On Long Island** 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 2242) ⊖ Clapham Common **The Daytrippers** 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm **Godzilla** 12noon, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm **Life Is All You Get** 7pm, 9.30pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.15pm, 2.15pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-369 1720) ⊖ Green Park **The Daytrippers** 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET
(0171-703 4968) ⊖ Elephant & Castle **Godzilla** 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.05pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm **The Little Mermaid** 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0171-437 1234) ⊖ Leicester Square **The Castle** 12noon, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm, 9pm **Godzilla** 11.20am, 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate **Hana-Bi** 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0870-9070718) ⊖ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith **Barney's Great Adventure** 12.30pm, 2.20pm, 4.15pm **Godzilla** 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm **The Little Mermaid** 12noon, 2pm, 4.10pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 6pm, 8.30pm **Sliding Doors** 6.10pm, 8.30pm **The Wedding Singer** 8.45pm

METRO
(0171-437 0757) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **Hana-Bi** 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm **Love And Death On Long Island** 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

CURZON MINEMA
(0171-369 1723) ⊖ Knightsbridge **Life Is All You Get** 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate **Godzilla** 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 6.15pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(0181-315 4229) ⊖ Camden Town **The Daytrippers** 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm **Dr Dolittle** Thu 3.30pm, 9pm **The Gingerbread Man** 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm **Godzilla** 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm **Sling Blade** 1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm **The Wedding Singer** 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

ODEON HAYMARKET
(0181-315 4212) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **The Wedding Singer** 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(0181-315 4214) ⊖ High Street Kensington **The Castle** 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm **City Of Angels** 1.25pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm **The Gingerbread Man** 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm **Godzilla** 11.40am, 2.50pm, 6pm, 9.10pm **The Little Mermaid** 11.40am, 1.45pm **The Object Of My Affection** 12.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 3.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0181-315 4216) ⊖ Marble Arch **City Of Angels** 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm **The Gingerbread Man** 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm **Godzilla** 11.30am, 1.15pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm, 9pm **The Little Mermaid** 12noon, 2pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(0181-315 4215) ⊖ Leicester Square **As Good As It Gets** 5.45pm, 8.25pm **Point Blank** 6.30pm, 8.55pm **The Replacement Killers** 6.35pm, 8.45pm **Scream 2** 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0181-315 4220) ⊖ Swiss Cottage **The Big Lebowski** 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm **The Castle** 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm **The Gingerbread Man** 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm **Godzilla** 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 6.30pm, 8.45pm **Sliding Doors** 9pm

ODEON WEST END
(0181-315 4221) ⊖ Leicester Square **The Object Of My Affection** 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

PLAZA
(0171-437 1234) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **Godzilla** 1.15pm, 4.25pm, 8pm **Mojo** 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm **Paulie** 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm **Sliding Doors** 1pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) ⊖ Russell Square **Dance Of The Wind** 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm **The Thief** 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171-737 2121/733 2229) BR/⊖ Brixton **Animal Farm** 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.05pm **The Big Lebowski** 9.10pm **The Daytrippers** 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm **Fairytale: A True Story** 10.30am **Godzilla** 12noon, 3pm, 6.15pm, 9pm **Hana-Bi** 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.30pm, 2.35pm, 4.30pm **Love And Death On Long Island** 6.50pm, 9.15pm **Sling Blade** 6.20pm **Star Kid** 10.30am **Under The Skin** 2.40pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171-486 0036) ⊖ Baker Street **Kurt & Courtney** 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 8.55pm **Love And Death On Long Island** 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
(0171-226 3520) ⊖ Angel **Hana-Bi** 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL
(0171-435 3366) ⊖ Belsize Park **La Grande Illusion** 3pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

UCI WHITELEYS
(0171-792 3332) ⊖ Bayswater **Barney's Great Adventure** 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.30pm **The Castle** 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.15pm, 7.35pm, 9.45pm **City Of Angels** 6.50pm, 9.30pm **The Gingerbread Men** 6.40pm, 9.20pm **Godzilla** 11am, 11.40am, 2.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.25pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 9pm **The Little Mermaid** 11.50am, 2pm, 4.05pm **Mad City** 6.10pm, 8.50pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 11.05am, 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm **MouseHunt** 11.20am **Paulie** 11am, 12.55pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm **Sliding Doors** 7.15pm **The Wedding Singer** 9.40pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA
(0870-9070710) ⊖ Sloane Square **Barney's Great Adventure** 12noon, 2pm, 4pm **The Gingerbread Man** 6pm, 8.40pm **Godzilla** 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.15pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.20pm, 2.20pm **Lost In Space** Thu 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 12.15pm, 2.10pm, 4.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm **The Wedding Singer** 7pm, 9.15pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-9070711) ⊖ South Kensington **The Big Lebowski** 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm **The Castle** 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm **The Daytrippers** 1pm, 3.15pm, 7pm, 9.30pm **Godzilla** 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm **Mad City** 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm **Paulie** 12noon, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm **Sliding Doors** 9.10pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET
(0870-9070712) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **The Apostle** 2pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm **The Daytrippers** 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9pm **Love And Death On Long Island** 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO
(0870-9070716) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **Barney's Great Adventure** 12.40pm, 2.30pm, 4.15pm **The Castle** 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm **City Of Angels** 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm **Dark City** 9.20pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.15pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm **Mad City** 6pm, 8.50pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 12.10pm, 2pm, 4pm **Mimic** 6.10pm, 9pm **MouseHunt** 1pm **Paulie** 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm **Soul Food** 6pm, 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4347) ⊖ Leicester Square **Animal Farm** 12.50pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm **The Big Lebowski** 6.40pm, 9.20pm **City Of Angels** 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm **The Gingerbread Man** 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 9pm **Kurt & Courtney** 8.40pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm **Mad City** 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 11.50am, 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.15pm **Mimic** 7.20pm **Mojo** 9.40pm **Paulie** 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm **The Wedding Singer** 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

Cinema
London Locals

ACTON
PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) ⊖ Park Royal **Barney's Great Adventure** 11.20am, 1pm, 2.50pm, 4.40pm **City Of Angels** 6.30pm, 9.15pm **The Gingerbread Man** 7.20pm, 9.55pm **Godzilla** 11.10am, 12noon, 12.40pm, 2.10pm, 3pm, 3.40pm, 5.10pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 8.10pm, 9pm, 9.40pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm **The Little Mermaid** 10.50am, 12.50pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm **Mad City** 7.30pm, 10.05pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 11.20am, 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm **MouseHunt** 11am **Paulie** 11am, 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm **Star Kid** 11.30am **The Wedding Singer** 6.10pm, 8.30pm

BARKING
ODEON (0181-507 8444) ⊖ Barking **Anastasia** 11.40am **Barney's Great Adventure** 12.25pm, 2pm, 3.35pm, 5.10pm **Flubber** 11.25am **The Gingerbread Man** 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm **Godzilla** 11.15am, 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm **The Little Mermaid** 1.10pm, 2.55pm, 4.40pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.55pm **Paws** 11.55am **The Replacement Killers** 7pm, 9pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 6.35pm, 8.50pm **Sliding Doors** 6.45pm, 8.55pm **The Wedding Singer** 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

BARNET
ODEON (0181-315 4210) ⊖ High Barnet **Barney's Great Adventure** 12noon, 2pm, 3.45pm **The Gingerbread Man** 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm **Godzilla** 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 6.10pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.10pm, 2.05pm, 4.10pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 6.10pm, 8.40pm **Sliding Doors** 6.45pm, 8.55pm **The Wedding Singer** 6.40pm, 8.50pm

BECKENHAM
ABC (0870 9020412) BR Beckenham Junction **Barney's Great Adventure** 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm **Godzilla** 1.15pm, 4.30pm, 8.15pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.45pm, 3pm, 5.15pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 8.45pm **The Wedding Singer** 6.15pm, 9pm

BEXLEYHEATH
CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR Bexleyheath **Barney's Great Adventure** 11.30am, 1.20pm, 3.05pm, 5pm **City Of Angels** 7pm, 9.30pm **The Gingerbread Man** 7.05pm, 9.40pm **Godzilla** 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 10am, 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm **The Land Before Time** 10am **The Little Mermaid** 11.15am, 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm **The Lost World: Jurassic Park** 9.30am **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 10.50am, 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm **The Object Of My Affection** 7.10pm, 9.50pm **Paulie** 10.20am, 12.25pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 7.30pm, 9.45pm **The Wedding Singer** 10.15am, 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 9.20pm

BROMLEY
ODEON (0181-315 4211) BR Bromley North/Bromley South **Barney's Great Adventure** 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm **City Of Angels** 6.25pm, 8.50pm **Godzilla** 11.05am, 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.40pm, 2.30pm, 4.20pm **MouseHunt** 12.10pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 6.10pm, 8.45pm **The Wedding Singer** 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm

CATFORD
ABC (0181-698 3306) BR Catford **Godzilla** 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8pm **The Little Mermaid** 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm **The Object Of My Affection** 8.30pm

CROYDON
CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR Croydon West/East **The Borrowers** 1.45pm **City Of Angels** 8pm **Love And Death On Long Island** 4pm, 6pm

FAIRFIELD HALLS (0181-688 9291) BR East Croydon **MouseHunt** 2.30pm, 7.45pm **Sliding Doors** 2.45pm, 7.30pm

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR West Croydon **Godzilla** 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 4.20pm, 6.30pm **Kareeb** 8.30pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.10pm, 2pm, 4pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 6pm, 8.05pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR East Croydon **Barney's Great Adventure** 10.40am, 12.30pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm **City Of Angels** 7.20pm, 10pm **The Gingerbread Man** 7pm, 9.50pm **Godzilla** 11.40am, 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 2.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.15pm, 5.55pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm, 9pm, 9.35pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 6.10pm, 8.40pm **The Little Mermaid** 11.30am, 1.40pm, 3.50pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 10.50am, 12.55pm, 3.05pm, 5.20pm **MouseHunt** 11.25am **Paulie** 10.30am, 12.20pm, 2.35pm, 4.50pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.30pm, 4pm **Star Kid** 11.50am **The Wedding Singer** 6.45pm, 9.15pm

DAGENHAM
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) ⊖ Dagenham Heathway **Barney's Great Adventure** 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm **City Of Angels** 6pm, 8.40pm **The Gingerbread Man** 6.50pm, 9.30pm **Godzilla** 11.30am, 12.10pm, 1pm, 2.30pm, 3.10pm, 3.50pm, 5.30pm, 6.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.30pm, 9.10pm, 9.40pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 10.20am, 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm **The Little Mermaid** 12noon, 2pm, 4pm **Mad City** 7.20pm, 9.50pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 11.20am, 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm **MouseHunt** 11am **Paulie** 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9pm **Star Kid** 10.30am **The Wedding Singer** 7pm, 9.20pm

EALING
VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/⊖ Ealing Broadway **Barney's Great Adventure** 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm **Godzilla** 12.05pm, 3.05pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.30pm, 2.25pm, 4.20pm **The Object Of My Affection** 6.30pm, 9pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 6.20pm, 8.50pm

EDGWARE
BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) ⊖ Edgware **The Little Mermaid** 1.35pm, 3.35pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2.20pm, 5.05pm, 8.20pm **Sliding Doors** 5.35pm **Star Kid** 12.30pm

EDMONTON
LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) ⊖ Tottenham Hale **Barney's Great Adventure** 12.10pm, 2.35pm, 5.15pm **City Of Angels** 6.45pm, 9.30pm **The Gingerbread Man** 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm **Godzilla** 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm, 10pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 12.15pm, 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm **The Little Mermaid** 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 11.30am, 1.45pm, 4.20pm **Mimic** 10.15pm **MouseHunt** 1.30pm, 5.10pm **The Object Of My Affection** 7.35pm **Paulie** 11.45am, 2.25pm, 4.45pm, 7.20pm **Satye** 8.15pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 7.30pm, 10.10pm **Sliding Doors** 9.40pm **Soul Food** 7.10pm, 9.50pm **The Wedding Singer** 11.5pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

FELTHAM
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR Feltham **Angaaray** 12.10pm, 9.15pm **Barney's Great Adventure** 11.40am, 1.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm **City Of Angels** 7.20pm, 9.50pm **Dulhe Raja** 12.15pm, 6.35pm **Gharwali Baharwali** 5.30pm, 9.30pm **The Gingerbread Man** 12noon, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm **Godzilla** 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm, 10pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 11.30am, 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm **Kareeb** 11.20am, 2.40pm, 6.05pm, 9.45pm **The Little Mermaid** 11.05am, 1pm, 2.50pm **The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot** 10.45am, 12.40pm, 2.45pm, 5pm **Major Saab** 3pm, 6pm **The Object Of My Affection** 7.20pm, 9.40pm **Paulie** 11.20am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm **Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha** 3.25pm, 9.45pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 11.50am, 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm **Sliding Doors** 8pm, 10pm **The Wedding Singer** 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm

FINCHLEY
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) ⊖ East Finchley/Finchley Central **Barney's Great Adventure** 12noon, 2.05pm, 3.55pm **City Of Angels** 9.55pm **The Gingerbread Man** 6.10pm, 9.05pm **Godzilla** 11.30am, 12.40pm, 1.55pm, 2.40pm, 3.35pm, 5.05pm, 5.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.15pm, 8.50pm, 9.25pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 7.15pm, 9.45pm **The Little Mermaid** 11.20am, 1.40pm, 4.05pm **Mad City** 6.50pm, 9.35pm **MouseHunt** 11.05am **Paulie** 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm **Star Kid** 11.40am **The Wedding Singer** 7.10pm

GOLDERS GREEN
ABC (0181-455 1724) ⊖ Golders Green **Godzilla** 1.45pm, 5pm, 8pm

GREENWICH
CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR Greenwich Barney's Great Adventure 12noon, 1.30pm, 3pm City Of Angels 4.30pm The Gingerbread Man 6.50pm, 9.15pm Godzilla 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm The Little Mermaid 12.50pm, 2.30pm, 4.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 7pm, 9.30pm

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-9020413) ⊖ Belsize Park Barney's Great Adventure 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.20pm Deconstructing Harry 8.35pm Godzilla 2pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little Mermaid 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Sliding Doors 8.40pm

HARROW
SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) ⊖ Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow &Wealdstone Duplicate 1.30pm, 5pm Kareeb 8.45pm Pardes Tue 1.30pm, 5pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ⊖ Harrow on the Hill Barney's Great Adventure 10.10am, 12.05pm, 2pm, 3.55pm, 5.50pm City Of Angels 7pm, 9.50pm The Gingerbread Man 6.30pm, 9.10pm Godzilla 9.30am, 11.15am, 11.45am, 12.40pm, 2.20pm, 2.55pm, 3.35pm, 5.25pm, 6pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm, 9pm, 9.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 11am, 1.30pm, 2.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm The Little Mermaid 10.50am, 12.50pm, 2.45pm, 4.50pm Mad City 7.45pm, 10.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 11.25am, 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.15pm MouseHunt 10.40am Paulie 9.55am, 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.10pm Six Days, Seven Nights 12.40pm, 2.55pm, 5.05pm, 7.45pm, 10pm Star Kid 9.40am The Wedding Singer 9.20pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (0181-315 4213) ⊖ Archway Barney's Great Adventure 12noon, 2.55pm, 4.45pm City Of Angels 6.15pm, 6.55pm The Gingerbread Man 2.35pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Godzilla 11.25am, 2.05pm, 2.25pm, 5pm, 5.25pm, 7.55pm, 8.25pm The Little Mermaid 1.10pm, 3pm, 4.55pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.45pm, 2.30pm, 4.25pm MouseHunt 12.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights 6.30pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors 6.45pm, 9.05pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (0181-315 4217) ⊖ Highgate Barney's Great Adventure 12.20pm, 2.05pm, 3.55pm City Of Angels 6.10pm, 8.40pm Godzilla 1.20pm, 5.05pm, 8.10pm The Little Mermaid 12noon, 1.50pm, 3.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights 12noon, 1.50pm, 3.35pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR Peckham Rye Barney's Great Adventure 12.30pm, 2.05pm, 3.45pm, 5.15pm City Of Angels 5.45pm The Gingerbread Man 7.05pm, 9.25pm Godzilla 12.55pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm The Little Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.10pm, 2pm, 3.50pm Paulie 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm Six Days, Seven Nights 7pm, 9.20pm Soul Food 9.10pm Titanic 8pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-9020401) ⊖ Putney Bridge BR Putney. Barney's Great Adventure 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm Godzilla 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm The Little Mermaid 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 8.30pm The Wedding Singer 8.45pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR ⊖ Richmond Barney's Great Adventure 12pm, 3pm The Gingerbread Man 6.10pm, 9.15pm Godzilla 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Little Mermaid 12.40pm, 2.35pm, 4.30pm Love And Death On Long Island 6.50pm, 9.40pm

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4216) BR ⊖ Richmond City Of Angels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 1pm, 3pm, 5pm The Object Of My Affection 6.50pm, 9.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR Romford. Barney's Great Adventure 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm Godzilla 1.55pm, 4.55pm, 8pm The Little Mermaid 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights 8.25pm Sliding Doors 8.35pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729040) BR Romford Anastasia 10.20am Barney's Great Adventure 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm City Of Angels 6pm, 8.25pm Deep Impact 12.35pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Flubber 10.20am George Of The Jungle 10.20am The Gingerbread Man 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Godzilla 11am, 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm MouseHunt 10.20am Paulie 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.35pm Paws 10.20am The Replacement Killers 7pm, 9pm Six Days, Seven Nights 6.40pm, 8.50pm The Wedding Singer 6.40pm, 8.50pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR Cricklewood Barney's Great Adventure 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm Godzilla 12noon, 1.30pm, 3pm, 5pm, 6pm, 8pm, 9pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm Mad City 9pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm Paulie 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm Six Days, Seven Nights 6.45pm, 9.15pm The Wedding Singer 6.30pm, 9pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR Streatham Hill Girls' Night 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Object Of My Affection 8.35pm Paulie 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR Streatham Hill/⊖ Brixton/Clapham Common Barney's Great Adventure 12.45pm, 2.30pm, 4.15pm The Gingerbread Man 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Godzilla 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Little Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 6.20pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 6pm, 8.40pm The Wedding Singer 6pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/⊖ Stratford East The Gingerbread Man 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Godzilla 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 6pm, 9pm The Little Mermaid 12.45pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm Love And Death On Long Island 6.30pm, 9pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.05pm Sling Blade 6.05pm, 8.50pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton/⊖ Morden Barney's Great Adventure 11.45am, 2pm, 4pm City Of Angels 7pm Godzilla 12noon, 12.30pm, 3pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm, 9.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm Paulie 11am, 1pm, 3.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 6.15pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors 9.15pm The Wedding Singer 5.45pm, 9.45pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) ⊖ Turnpike Lane. Godzilla 1.45pm, 5pm, 6.05pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 8.45pm Sliding Doors 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) ⊖ Walthamstow Central Barney's Great Adventure 2pm, 4pm, 6pm City Of Angels 8.20pm Godzilla 1.50pm, 4.55pm, 8pm The Little Mermaid 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm Mad City 8.45pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Barney's Great Adventure 2pm, 2.30pm, 4.25pm Godzilla 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Little Mermaid 1pm The Object Of My Affection 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Godzilla 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.05pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Little Mermaid 1.30pm, 3.30pm

WILLESDEN
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) ⊖ Willesden Green City Of Angels 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Star Kid 2pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR/⊖ Wimbledon Barney's Great Adventure 11.45am, 1.20pm, 2.55pm, 4.30pm The Gingerbread Men 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Godzilla 10.50am, 1.50pm, 5pm, 8.10pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Little Mermaid 11.15am, 1pm, 2.45pm, 4.30pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 11.15am, 1pm, 2.45pm, 4.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 6.10pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors 6.20pm, 8.45pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) ⊖ South Woodford Barney's Great Adventure 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm Godzilla 1.50pm, 4.55pm, 7.55pm The Little Mermaid 1.55pm, 3.55pm, 5.55pm Six Days, Seven Nights 8.30pm Sliding Doors 8.15pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR Woolwich Arsenal Godzilla 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm The Wedding Singer 5.45pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
ALEXANDRA PALACE: STARLIGHT OPEN AIR CINEMA Alexandra Palace Way N22 (0171-504 3100) Midnight Cowboy (18) Gates open 6.30pm film commences at sunset

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) Kika (18) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274) Amistad (15) 2.30pm The Pirate Movie: Ken Annakin (NC) 6.15pm An Autumn Afternoon (PG) 6.20pm South: Television (NC) 7.30pm In The Company Of Men (18) 8.30pm Five Dolls For An August Moon: Mario Bava: Fantasm (NC) 8.45pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero. Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) City In Space (U) 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm 5.20pm Everest (U) 3.20pm, 7.50pm

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-444 6789) Anastasia (U) 2.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) The Last Time I Committed Suicide (15) 1.30pm Palmetto (15) 3.45pm The General (15) 6.15pm Dark City (15) 9pm

RIO Kingsland High Street E8 (0171-254 6677) Godzilla (PG) 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-237 1111/cc 420 0100) La Grande Illusion (U) 6.30pm, 8.50pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street TW8 (0181-568 1176) The Little Mermaid (U) 1pm, 3.30pm Ponette (15) 4.45pm Love And Death On Long Island (15) 6.45pm Sling Blade (15) 8.45pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Sling Blade (15) 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Gingerbread Man (15) 6pm, 8.30pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Ponette (15) 12.45pm, 7.15pm Hana-Bi (18) 2.45pm, 9.20pm Fargo (18) 5pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Wild Man Blues (12) 7.30pm Sling Blade (15) 8pm

IPSWICH
FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Anastasia (U) 2.30pm Lolita (18) 6pm, 8.30pm Point Blank (18) 6pm Ponette (15) 8.15pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Anastasia (U) 2.30pm Washington Square (PG) 5.45pm Un Air De Famille (15) 8.15pm

PLYMOUTH
ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) Shall We Dance? (PG) 8pm

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● — Seats at all prices ◗ — Seats at some prices ○ — Returns only Matinees — [1]. Sun. [3]. Tue. [4]: Wed. [5]. Thu. [6]. Fri. [7]: Sat

◗ **2.5 MINUTE RIDE** Lisa Kron's one woman show. Barbican: The Pit Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) ⊖ Barbican/Moorgate. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £12-£15.

◗ **ART** Stacy Keach, David Dukes, George Wendt in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ⊖ Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7][1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

● **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ⊖ Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat 7.30pm, [5], Thu & [7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150 mins.

● **BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ⊖ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £10.50-£29.50. 165 mins.

● **BUDDY** Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ⊖ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £6.75-£30. 160 mins.

◗ **CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) ⊖ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

○ **CHICAGO** Ruthie Henshall stars in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightclub act. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ⊖ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7] 2.30pm. £16-£36 (incl booking fee). 130 mins

◗ **CLOSER** Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships from Dealer's Choice author Patrick Marber. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, £7.50-£27.50. 140 mins.

● **THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (ABRIDGED)** Reduced Shakespeare Company's keenly-paced theatrical history lesson Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ⊖ Picc Circ. Tue 8pm, booking to Sept 22 £9.50-£20. 120 mins

● **DR DOLITTLE** Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. Labatt's Apollo Hammersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) ⊖ Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [3][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

○ **GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES** Sara Crowe stars in this musical featuring the song, Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend. Open Air Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431 cc 486 1933) ⊖ Baker Street. Tonight 8pm ends 1 Sep £9-£20

◗ **GREASE** Marissa Dunlop stars in the stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£30 150 mins.

● **HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE** Paula Vogel's drama about the incestuous relationship between a teenager and her uncle. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 4pm, ends 8 Aug, £12-£16. concs available. 95 mins

○ **THE ICEMAN COMETH** Kevin Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's classic testimony to the power of dreams. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 494 5460) BR/⊖ Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7pm, [7] 1.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £5-£30. 180 mins.

● **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 867 1111) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, ends 22 Aug, £7.50-£29.50. 165 mins.

◗ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [5] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm, £10.50-£25. 110 mins.

● **KAT AND THE KINGS** Musical set in 1950s Cape Town. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/⊖ Charing X. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm, ends 1 Aug. £6.25-£27.50. 130 mins.

● **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION** Hugh Whitemore's play about the Profumo affair and political morality. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) ⊖ Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £12.50-£25. 135 mins.

● **MAJOR BARBARA** Jemma Redgrave and Peter Bowles star in George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ⊖ Picc Circ. In rep, tonight 7.45pm, continuing, £8.50-£27.50. 180 mins.

◗ **LES MISERABLES** Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £7-£32.50. 195 mins.

● **MISS SAIGON** Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £5.75-£32.50. 165 mins.

● **THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £9-£23. 135 mins

● **THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD** David Mamet's new play is directed by Patrick Marber. Royal Court (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊖ Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 3.30pm, £5-£19.50, benches 10p, Mon - all seats £5. 90 mins.

○ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

● **POPCORN** Lawrence Boswell directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £6.50-£23.50. 150 mins.

● **THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY** Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Shaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ⊖ Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, £7.50-£27.50. 165 mins.

◗ **RENT** Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) ⊖ Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
○ OLIVIER: Oklahoma! Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical, featuring the song Oh What A Beautiful Mornin'. Mon-Sat 7.15pm, mats Wed & Sat 2pm, ends 3 Oct.
● LYTTELTON: The London Cuckolds Ravenscroft's Restoration comedy. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 11 Aug. 195 mins.
○ COTTESLOE: Copenhagen New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, continuing. 145 mins. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£25, Oklahoma! £12-£32.50. Cottesloe: £12-£18. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000).

○ **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ⊖ Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mins.

● **SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS** Steven Berkoff's look at evil in Shakespeare. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) ⊖ Picc Circ Tue-Sat 8.15pm, [7] 5pm, ends 9 Aug. £5-£17.50. concs £10 70 mins.

● **SHOW BOAT** Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the Mississippi Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) ⊖ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£35. 150 mins

● **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE - THE SONGS OF LEIBER AND STOLLER** The rock'n'roll hit-makers celebrated in a musical revue that includes Jailhouse Rock. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) ⊖ Leic Sq/Picc Circ. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.45pm & 8.30pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, £15-£32.50. Fri mats £10-£25 135 mins

● **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR ⊖ Victoria Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins

● **SWEET CHARITY** Bonnie Langford stars in this classic musical featuring the numbers Hey Big Spender and The Rhythm Of Life Victoria Palace Victoria Street SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/⊖ Victoria Mon-Sat 7.30pm [5][7] 3pm. £15-£30. 160 mins

◗ **THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE** Jane Asher stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10.50-£27.50. 140 mins.

◗ **THE UNEXPECTED MAN** Yasmina Reza's follow-up to Art is a drama about a novelist and a life-long admirer. Michael Gambon and Eileen Atkins star. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5] 4pm, [7] 5pm, booking to Aug 22, £10-£25. 100 mins.

◗ **WHAT YOU GET AND WHAT YOU EXPECT** Acerbic look at a generation bent on success from Jean-Marie Besset. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ⊖ Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 8 Aug, £10-£14, concs available.

○ **WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND** Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 836 2428) ⊖ Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50. 120 mins.

● **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) ⊖ Covent Garden/Holborn Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

THEATRE
BEYOND THE WEST END

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE After Darwin Timberlake Wertenbaker's dramatisation of the clash between believers in natural selection and believers in religious humanism stars Colin Salmon. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, ends 22 Aug. £8-£15. Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) ⊖ Swiss Cottage.

UPSTAIRS AT THE GATEHOUSE The Country Wife From 28 Jul. Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm, ends 23 Aug. £3-£10. Gatehouse Pub, N6 (0181-340 3488) ⊖ Highgate.

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call
THE Donmar Warehouse's production of James Lapine's fairytale, Into the Woods, is a show for parents and children alike. Fusing modern elements with traditional fairytales, it's the story of a childless couple who ask a witch to procure a child for them, in return for stealing the ingredients of four Grimm tales. There's enough moral content to satisfy adults and an ensemble of bright characters for kids, and with lines like "You can't count on a royal family to solve your problems", it's topical as well as mythical.
Donmar Warehouse, 41 Earlham Street, London WC2 (0171-369 1732) 5 Nov to 13 Feb 1999

Last Call
THE CHANGES in the line-up of Squeeze *(right)* have done little to diminish its sturdy fan base. Their perfect pop tunes with a bitter edge – such as "Cool For Cats" and "Up the Junction" – were hits at the end of the Seventies and evolved into the more sensitive and sophisticated elements of their 1993 album, *Some Fantastic Place*.
Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333), 13 Nov; Colston Hall, Bristol (0117-922 3682) 18 Nov; Apollo Theatre, Manchester (0161-242 2560) 3 Dec; Barrowlands, Glasgow (0141-552 4601) 8 Dec; Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool (0151-709 4321) 15 Dec

THEATRE
COUNTRYWIDE

BATH
THEATRE ROYAL The Doctor's Dilemma Tony Britton stars. 28-29 Jul, 7.30pm, 30 Jul-1 Aug, 8pm. £9-£23.50. concs available. St Johns Place (01225-448844/cc 448861)

BRIGHTON
MARLBOROUGH THEATRE Time And Again A new musical about forbidden love, class and sexual divides in a 1936 public boys school. Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, ends 1 Aug. £6.50, concs £4.50. Princes Street (01273-570028)

BRISTOL
HIPPODROME THEATRE The Goodbye Girl Marti Webb and Gary Wilmot star in this musical adaptation of the Neil Simon movie. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm. £5-£20.50. concs available. St Augustines Parade (0117-929 9444)

OEH THEATRE Lorenzaccio Adaptation of Musset's drama about debauchery and power. 31 Jul, 8pm. £6, concs £4.50. Jacob's Wells Road (0117-925 0551)

BROMLEY
BROMLEY CENTRAL LIBRARY Chasing Dolphins Young clubbers confront strong emotions after witnessing an horrific event. 28-31 Jul 7.30pm, £7. High Street (0181-460 9955)

CARDIFF
CARDIFF CASTLE The Three Musketeers Dumas's swashbuckling classic. 28 Jul-1 Aug 8.30pm. Phone for prices. Castle Street (01222-822083)

NEW THEATRE The Bible - The Complete Word Of God The Reduced Shakespeare Company comically condenses the good book. 28-31 Jul 7.30pm, 1 Aug 5.30pm & 8.30pm. £5-£15 concs available. Park Place (01222-878889)

CHICHESTER
CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE Racing Demon David Hare's gripping drama follows the lives of four Church of England clergy. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, ends 1 Aug £8.50-£25. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

HASTINGS
WHITE ROCK THEATRE Spring And Port Wine A stage comedy about a proud northern father whose daughters challenge his authority. 28 Jul-1 Aug 7.45pm £10.50 concs available. White Rock (01424-781000)

ILFRACOMBE
THE LANDMARK Barnum Peter Duncan stars in this circus show, complete with death-defying feats. Mon-Sat 8.15pm, mats Thu 2.15pm, ends 8 Sep. £10-£14.75. The Promenade Wilder Road (01271-324242)

NEWBURY
WATERMILL THEATRE Cabaret Kander and Ebb's musical about life in decadent 1930s Berlin Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat, 2.30pm, ends 22 Aug £6-£15. concs available. Bagnor (01635-46044)

OLLERTON
RUFFORD ABBEY Cyrano De Bergerac - Size Is Not Important! High energy adaptation of the swashbuckling French classic Mon-Sat 8.30pm, ends 1 Aug. £6-£13.50. concs available. (0115-941 9419)

POOLE
POOLE PARK Tess Of The D'Urbervilles Stage adaptation of Hardy's classic novel. 28 Jul-2 Aug, 7.30pm. £6.50. (01202-685222)

READING
THE MILL AT SONNING Out Of Order Ray Cooney's farce about a Government minister, an Opposition typist and a dead body. Tue-Sat 8.15pm, mats Sat 2.15pm, ends 15 Aug. £20.95-£31.95 incl meal. Sonning Eye (0118-969 8000)

READING ABBEY RUINS Much Ado About Nothing Atmospheric setting for Shakespeare's battle of the sexes comedy. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, ends 1 Aug. £12. concs £8. (0118-960 6060)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
THE OTHER PLACE Bad Weather Robert Holman's examination of the breakdown in family relationships In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 2 Sep. £12-£19. Southern Lane (01789-295623)

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE Measure For Measure Stephen Boxer stars in Shakespeare's examination of justice. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 3 Sep £5-£37. Waterside (01789-295623)

SWAN THEATRE Bartholomew Fair Jonson's theatrical drama is sympathetically staged at the Swan for the RSC In rep, today 28 Jul, 1.30pm, ends 1 Sep. £5-£31. Talk Of The City Stephen Poliakoff's drama explores media control in the early days of TV and radio. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 3 Sep. £5-£31 Waterside (01789-295623)

SWANSEA
GRAND THEATRE How The Other Half Loves Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a suburban trio of couples linked by the work of the husbands. 28 Jul-1 Aug. 7.30pm £5.50-£7.50, concs available. Singleton Street (01792-475715)

EXHIBITIONS

CARDIFF
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES Victorian Visions: From Rossetti To Whistler Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, ends 29 Sep. £4.25. child & concs £2.50 (to museum). Princes As Patrons Over 250 works from the Royal Collection. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, ends 8 Nov. £4.25. child & concs £2.50 (to museum). Cathays Park (01222-397951)

LONDON
BARBICAN ART GALLERY The Warhol Look: Glamour, Style, Fashion Over 500 works by 60 artists explore art, film and fashion during Warhol's life. Mon, Thu-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tue 10am-5.45pm, Wed 10am-7.45pm, Sun 12noon-6.45pm, ends 16 Aug. £6 (£4 after 5pm Mon-Fri), concs £4. Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141) ⊖ Barbican/Moorgate.

CONCOURSE GALLERY, BARBICAN CENTRE Absolut Cobblers Famous shoe designers, including Jimmy Choo, create art. Mon-Fri 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-7.30pm, ends 19 Aug Free. Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141) ⊖ Barbican

DESIGN MUSEUM Design Dynasty: Ferdinand Porsche Fifty years of vehicle design. Ends 8 Aug. £5.25, concs £4 (to museum). Innovation By Design: 100 Years Of Bosch In The UK Celebrating the work of the inventor and industrialist. Mon-Sun 11.30am-6pm, ends 16 Aug. £5.25, concs £4 (to museum). Shad Thames, SE1 (0171-378 6055) ⊖ Tower Hill/DLR Tower Gateway

HAYWARD GALLERY Bruce Nauman Retrospective of the work, film and sound pieces by the contemporary American artist. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm, Tue-Wed to 8pm, ends 6 Sep. £6, concs £3.50. Belvedere Road, SE1 (0171-960 4242) ⊖ Waterloo

NATIONAL GALLERY Masters Of Light: Dutch Painting From Utrecht In The Golden Age Dutch paintings from the 17th century demonstrating unique use of light. Includes work by Bloemaert and Ter Brugghen. Ends 2 Aug. £6, concs £2. Caravaggio: The Flagellation Of Christ Exhibition centred on a loaned work by the 17th-century artist. Ends 9 Aug. Free. Venice Through Canaletto's Eyes Twenty-three paintings and drawings by the Venetian artist. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Wed to 8pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 11 Oct. Free. Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321) ⊖ Charing Cross, Leicester Square.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 1998 Major annual selling exhibition. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (Sun to 8.30pm), ends 16 Aug. £7, UB40/OAP £5.50, NUS £5, child 12-18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1 incl handbook. Critical Mass: Antony Gormley Sixty casts of human bodies. Mon-Sun all day, ends 30 Sep. Free. Chagall: Love And The Stage Featuring colourful murals made in Russia. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (Sun to 8.30pm), ends 4 Oct. £6, concs £5, NUS £4, child 12-18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1. Burlington House Piccadilly, W1 (0171-300 8000/cc 413 1717) ⊖ Green Park/Piccadilly Circus.

TATE GALLERY Art Now 14: Sophie Calle's The Birthday Ceremony Sculptural installation of birthday gifts. Ends 16 Aug. Free. Patrick Heron Retrospective of the British artist. Ends 6 Sep. £5, concs £3.25. Warhol And Beuys: Loans From The Froehlich Collection Work by leading 20th-century artists. Ends 20 Sep. Free. Moonlight And Firelight: Watercolours From The Turner Bequest Work exploring Turner's interest in moonlight and firelight. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 11 Nov. Free. Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) ⊖ Pimlico.

OXFORD
ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM The Weldon Gallery Redesigned A new display of Baroque paintings and sculpture re-opens the gallery. Ends 7 Jul. Drawings: Claude Lorrain 1600-1682 Over 100 drawings covering every aspect of the artist's work. Tue-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm, ends 13 Sep. Free. Beaumont Street (01865-278000)

CHRIST CHURCH PICTURE GALLERY Lewis Carroll: Christ Church As Wonderland Mon-Sat 10.30am-1pm, 2pm-4.30pm, Sun 2pm-4.30pm, ends 31 Aug. £1, concs 50p. Christ Church College (01865-276172)

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART The CommissAr Of Space: John Goto Large-scale photographs exploring the effects of the 1930s on Russia. Ends 23 Aug. A Conversation Piece: John Murphy - Julião Sarmento Collaboration of paintings, objects and installation. Tue-Sun 11am-6pm (Thu to 9pm), ends 4 Oct. £2.50 (free Wed morn & Thu eve). concs £1.50, child free. Pembroke Street (01865-722733)

CLASSICAL

OXFORD
SHELDONIAN THEATRE Adderbury Ensemble/Shaw Music for strings including Tchaikovsky's Serenade. Tonight 8pm £12, concs £8. Broad Street (01865-261384)

LONDON
ROYAL ALBERT HALL BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Wigglesworth A new piece by Gerard McBurney and Ravel's Daphnis and Chloe. Tonight 7.30pm. £3-£20. Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) ⊖ High Street Kensington.

OPERA

LONDON
BRITTEN THEATRE, ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC Apollo et Hyacinthus/Grabmusik Mozart's very first opera, written when he was 11, from the Classical Opera Company. Tonight 7.30pm. £5-£32, Prince Consort Road, SW7 (0171-589 8212) ⊖ South Kensington.

HOLLAND PARK THEATRE Lucia Di Lammermoor European Chamber Opera production of Donizetti, directed by Stefan Paul Sanchez. Tonight 7.30pm, £24, concs £18.50. Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-602 7856) ⊖ High Street Kensington.

DANCE

LONDON
BARBICAN THEATRE Tharp!: Programme One Triple bill of Twyla Tharp's choreography including London premieres of Roy's Joys and Yemaya. Tonight 7.45pm, £6-£27, concs available on day. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) ⊖ Barbican/Moorgate.

LONDON COLISEUM The Royal Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty Tchaikovsky's classic fairytale ballet, staged by Anthony Dowell. Tonight 7.30pm (Bussell/Zelensky). £10-£55. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) ⊖ Leicester Square/Charing Cross.

LITERATURE

LONDON
THE JEWISH BRIGADE A talk by Morris Beckman to coincide with the launch of his new book. The Jewish Museum - Finchley East End Road N3 (0181-349 1143) ⊖ Finchley Central. Tonight 8pm, £2, mems £1.

STEVEN BERKOFF The actor/director reads from Graft: Tales of an Actor. National Theatre: Lyttelton South Bank SE1 (0171-452 3000) BR/⊖ Waterloo. Tonight 6pm, £3.50, concs £2.50

COMEDY

LONDON
COMEDY CABARET DOWNSTAIRS AT THE KING'S HEAD Edinburgh preview shows from Fist Of Funster Stewart Lee, plus talented Irish comic Kevin Gildea. Tonight 8.30pm, £4, concs £3. Crouch End Hill, N8 (0181-340 1028) ⊖ Finsbury Park.

MURPHY'S EALING COMEDY FESTIVAL AT WALPOLE PARK MARQUEE Classy stand-up from the Father Ted star Ardal O'Hanlon. Tonight 8.30pm, £10. Mattock Lane, W5 (0181-579 5436) ⊖ Ealing Broadway.

RICHARD HERRING'S PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK WITH JESUS AT WAREHOUSE THEATRE The Fist Of Funster's new comic play looks at love, religion and delusion. Tonight 7.30pm, £6, concs £5. Dingwall Road, Croydon. (0181-680 4060) BR: East Croydon.

CLUBS

BRIGHTON
MADAME B'S BORDELLO AT THE OCEAN ROOMS Dirty funk and fetish wear night with DJ Touche. Tonight 10pm-2am, £4, concs £3. Morley Street (01273-699069)

BRISTOL
FUNKY PEOPLE AT CAFE BLUE Disco, hip hop and funk with DJs Josh and Marcus. Tonight 8pm-1am, free. The Old Fire Station, Silver Street (0117-940 5626)

LONDON
FORGERY AT DOGSTAR AT THE DOGSTAR Patrick Forge (Kiss FM) and Richard Welch play disco, drum'n'bass, Latin and jazz. Tonight 10pm-2am, Coldharbour Lane, SW9 (0171-733 7515) ⊖ Brixton, free.

EVENTS

BRIGHTON
JAZZ AGE POOLE: ENGLISH ART DECO POTTERY 1920s and 1930s Poole Pottery exemplifying that of the Jazz Age. Museum & Art Gallery Church Street (01273-603005) Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 15 Sep, free.

ELY
POND DIPPING WITH TRUSTY THE HEDGEHOG Explore Wicken Fen with Trusty the Hedgehog. Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve Lode Lane (01353-720274) Today 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm, £2.50

KINGSTON UPON THAMES
ZIPPO'S CIRCUS 1998 All-new circus production with cast from Britain, Italy, France, Mongolia, Morocco and Russia. The Fairfield (01344-874757) Tonight 6pm. £5.50-£12, child £3.50-£12.

LONDON
CHILDREN'S SUMMER FUN FAIR Small family fun fair with rides and stalls. Alexandra Park Wood Green N22 (0860-310970) Tube:Wood Green. Mon-Sun 12noon-7pm, ends 13 Sep, free.

MOUNTVIEW STAND-UP COMEDY WORKSHOP Two-week course teaching how to develop a comic persona and 5-10 minutes of solid material. Includes a performance Downstairs at the Kings Head. (Contact: Jenny Ward.) Mountview Theatre School Kingfisher Place, Clarendon Road N22 (0181-889 8110) Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, ends 6 Aug, phone for details.

NEWQUAY
HEADWORX CHERRY COKE SURF FESTIVAL Surfing, live music, entertainment, trade and stands and displays. Fistral Beach (01626-62883) Ends 4 Aug, 9am-7pm, phone for details.

MUSIC
POP

LONDON
CUBA Much-fancied big beat skunk rockers. The Borderline Manette Street W1 (0171-734 2095) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 7pm, £7.

CAFFEINE London skatepunk trio whose recent single covered Dead Or Alive's You Spin Me Round. Camden Palace Camden High Street NW1 (0171-387 0428) ⊖ Camden Town. Tonight 10pm, £5, concs £3.

HOUSEWIFE SUPERSTAR, SAPPHIC SLOT, KANDINA J Disco-shimmer take on the St Etienne formula from the headliners. Dublin Castle Parkway NW1 (0171-378 6095) ⊖ Camden Town. Tonight 8.30pm, £4, concs £3.50.

LOVE TRAIN Party-crowd 1970s covers outfit. The Roadhouse The Piazza, Covent Garden Market WC2 (0171-240 6001) ⊖ Covent Garden. Tonight 9pm, £4.

NOTTING HILLBILLIES Mark Knopfler and some muso mates with his fingerpicking sideline. Ronnie Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747) ⊖ Leicester Square. Tonight 9pm & 11.30pm, £12, NUS £8, mems £4 (Mon-Thu); £15, mems £8 (Fri-Sat).

MUSIC
JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

OXFORD
LILIAN BOUTTE/THOMAS L'ETIENNE Classic New Orleans jazz sounds. Bullingdon Arms Cowley Road OX4 (01865-244516) July 28, 9pm, £4, free before 9.30pm.

LONDON
ECHOES OF ELLINGTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA Widely praised tribute outfit play Ellington favourites. 100 Club Oxford Street W1 (0171-636 0933) ⊖ Oxford Circus. July 28, 7.30pm, £7, mems £6.

MICHELLE DREES, ALEX WILSON Leading Latin jazz acts, Brazilian and Cuban respectively. 606 Club Lots Road SW10 (0171-352 5953) ⊖ Fulham Broadway/Earls Court. Tonight, 9.30pm & 12midnight, £4.95.

PIZZA EXPRESS ALL STARS The mainstreamers' mainstream. Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road. Tonight, 8.30pm, £8.50.

RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT/MARY CLEERE HARAN Classy piano and vocals cabaret team present two revues, S'wonderful and Pennies From Heaven. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) ⊖ Hyde Park Corner. 9.15pm & 11.15pm, £18, adv £16.

EVAN PARKER The godfather of European free sax. Vortex Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) BR: Stoke Newington. 9pm, £6.

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TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Graening and Zoe Ball. **9.00** Mark Goodier. **12.00** Jo Whiley. **2.00** Mark Radcliffe. **4.00** Dave Pearce. **6.30** Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. **8.30** Digital Update. **8.40** John Peel. **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs. **12.00** The Breezeblock. **2.00** Clive Warren. **4.00 - 6.30** Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan. **9.30** Ken Bruce. **12.00** Debbie Thrower. **2.00** Ed Stewart. **5.05** John Dunn. **7.00** Carl Davis Classics. **8.00** Nigel Ogden. **9.00** Everything You Wanted to Know about Busking. **10.00** Giant Strides (Stride Piano). *See Pick of the Day* **10.30** Richard Allinson. **12.05** Annie Othen. **3.00 - 4.00** Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Proms Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Handel.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 BBC Proms 98. (R)
4.00 Choral Voices.
4.45 Quartet.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 BBC Proms 98. Aspects of love appear tonight at the Royal Albert Hall in a first Proms commission by Gerard McBurney setting a Russian love letter by writer Daniil Kharms. And the raptures and pains, love shines through two timeless ballet scores - Prokofiev's violent and sharp-edged, Ravel's glittering and rhapsodic. Tigran Martirossian (bass), Philharmonia Chorus, BBC National Chorus and Orchestra of Wales/Mark Wigglesworth. Prokofiev: Romeo and Juliet (excerpts). Gerard McBurney: Letter to Paradise (BBC commission; first performance).
8.10 Ravel. Richard Langham Smith looks at the spectacle of "Daphnis and Chloe" in its original context through Ravel's writings. (R)
8.30 Concert, part 2. Ravel: Daphnis and Chloe.
9.50 Postscript. Five programmes exploring *some of the century's* greatest houses and the contribution they have made to the way we think and how we think about our homes. The second programme visits the USA to see Frank Lloyd Wright's famous house, Fallingwater. Driven by his belief in organic design and inspired by his desire to create an American architectura, Wright produced a *startling design. The informality* of the open plan, and the exposed building materials, have indeed provided a blueprint for American domestic architecture. (R)
10.15 William Fong. Piano recital. Beethoven: Variations in C minor, WoO 80. Mozart: Adagio in B minor, K540. Busoni: Sonatina super Carmen (Sonatina No 6) (Kammerfantasie). (R)
10.45 *Steiner's Benjamin.* George Steiner unravels the life and work of the great German-Jewish critic Walter Benjamin, who, chased by the Nazis across Europe, killed himself on 26 September, 1940 on the French-Spanish border. He left behind some influential thoughts on modern life which had an major posthumous influence. Reader Anthony Hyde. (R)
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Szymanowski. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 Unreliable Evidence.
9.30 The Vale.
9.45 *Serial: Letters from my Windmill.*
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; Unholy Relics. (R)
11.30 The Penthouse Apartment.
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 *Tricks of the Trade.*
2.00 NEWS; The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: Dogs.
3.00 NEWS; The Exchange (0171) 580 4444.
3.30 In Celebration.
3.45 Hemingway Short Stories.
4.00 NEWS; A Good Read.
4.30 Shop Talk.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 *The Mark Steel Revolution.*
7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. Francine Stock presents the nightly arts programme.
7.45 Postcards: The Fall. By Jonathan Holloway. When pregnant Charlotte returns to Porthant Bay, Cornwall, with her niece Holly, both find unexpected romance and passion. With Charlotte Coleman and Elaine Pyke. Director David Hunter (2/5).
8.00 NEWS; In the Shadow of El Niño. Julian Pettifer travels to Peru, Panama and Zimbabwe, giving his personal reflections and talking to experts about the effects of El Niño, the periodic warming of the eastern tropical Pacific which disrupts weather patterns and can trigger a collapse in the food chain. *See Pick of the Day*
8.40 In Touch. Peter White with news for visually impaired people.
9.00 NEWS; The Healers. BBC social affairs editor Niall Dickson reports on people who work in healthcare and considers how the pressures they work under affect the lot of patients. 4: "The Surgeon". How do neurosurgeons feel when they are operating deep inside a child's brain?
9.30 Unreliable Evidence. With the aid of expert guests, Clive Anderson.
10.00 *The World Tonight.*
10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Patchwork Planet. By Anne Tyler, abridged by Pat McLoughlin, read by William Hope. Barnaby Gaittin is nearly 30, divorced, directionless, the black sheep of his philanthropic Baltimore family. He also has a heart of gold (7/10).
11.00 Goodness Gracious Me. A six-part series of the award-winning Asian sketch show. This week, the introduction of a new Asian Gladiator - Pharmacist. Starring Sanjeev Bhaskar, Kulvinder Ghir, Meera Syal and Nina Wadia. (R)
11.30 Talking Pictures.
12.00 News.
12.30 *The Late Book; Raymond Carver Short Stories.*
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 *Prayer for the Day.*
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.
12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. **5.54 - 5.57** Shipping Forecast. **11.30 - 12.00** Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 *The Breakfast Programme.*
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Nationwide.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Any Sporting Questions?. John Inverdale and guests take at the King's Hall, Belfast. Guests include Scotland manager Craig Brown and former world super-middleweight champion Steve Collins.
9.00 Extre Time. Tonight, back to the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Joining *host Mark Steel in the studio are* Sebastian Coe, Geoff Capes, Martin Croft and Chris Baillieu.
10.00 Late Night Live. The day's big stories with Nick Robinson.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. **8.00** Henry Kelly. **12.00** Requests. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00** Jamie Crick. **6.30** Newsnight. **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. **9.00** Evening Concert. **11.00** *Michael Mappin.* **2.00** *Concerto.* **3.00 - 6.00** Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
7.00 Jonathan Ross. **10.00** Russ Williams. **1.00** Nick Abbot. **4.00** Robin Banks/FM only Ray Cokes from 6.45pm. **7.30** Ray Cokes. **10.00** Mark Forrest. **2.00** Peter Poulton. **5.00 - 7.00** Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE
(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. **1.30** The Farming World. **1.45** Britain Today. **2.00** Newsdesk. **2.30** Discovery. **3.00** Newsday. **3.30** Meridian (Live). **4.00** World News. **4.05** Business Report. **4.15** *Sports Roundup.* **4.30 - 7.00** The World Today.

TALK RADIO
6.30 Kirsty Young with Bill Overton. **9.00** Scott Chisholm. **11.00** Lorraine Kelly. **1.00** Anna Raeburn. **3.00** Tommy Boyd. **5.00** Peter Deeley. **7.00** Nick Abbot. **9.00** James Whale. **1.00** Ian Collins. **5.00** Early Show with Bill Overton.

PICK OF THE DAY

EL NIÑO, the mysterious warming of Pacific waters off the Peruvian coast, has been happening every five years or so for hundreds of years. This time around, though, it has been declared Public Enemy Number One and blamed for a huge range of crises and disasters across the globe. For **In the Shadow of El Niño (8pm R4)**, Julian Pettifer (*right*) patrols the Pacific Rim in search of the environmental effects - good and bad - of El Niño. As we hear about freak weather conditions, firestorms, tsunemi and floods, he asks whether things are really worse than before, or are we just getting jumpier? Later on, Humphrey Lyttelton takes Giant Strides (10pm R2), playing a selection of stride piano - a style defined by its "walking" bass patterns - performed by such great names as James P Johnson, Willie "The Lion" Smith and Fats Waller.

ROBERT HANKS

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
6.00 Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness on the Planet of the Apes (1974) (86515). **8.00** Five Days One Summer (1983) (92393). **10.00** James and the Giant Peach (1996) (84683). **11.30** Spy Hard (1996) (40634). **1.00** Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness on the Planet of the Apes (1974) (83645). **3.00** King Ralph (1991) (16770). **5.00** James and the Giant Peach (1996) (21732). **7.00** Spy Hard (1996) (21393). **9.00** Dying to Be Perfect: the Ellen Hart Pena Story (1996) (83596). **10.30** National Lampoon's Senior Trip (1995) (3251257). **12.05** Stolen Hearts (1996) (218078). **1.45** Code Name: Wolverine (1996) (908875). **3.20 - 6.00** The Grotesque (1995) (33650610).

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2
6.05 Lillian Russell* (1940) (93583577). *8.15 Project: Alf (1996) (4314467).* **10.00** The Velvet Touch* (1948) (50732). **12.00** The Man Who Captured Eichmann (1996) (13886). **2.00** August (1996) (15683). **4.00** *The Velvet Touch (1948) (29474003).* **5.50** The Man Who Captured Eichmann (1996) (44005515). **7.30** Behind the Scenes: Lethal Weapon 4 (5931). **8.00** Chain Reaction (1996) (17862848). **9.45** The Movie Show (474393). **10.15** Copycat (1995) (82620577). *See Pick of the Day* **12.20** When Time Expires (1997) (220813). **2.00** *Generation X (1996) (60829).* **3.30 - 6.00** The Great White Hope (1970) (798639).

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00 The Conqueror (1956) (2411770). **6.00** The 'Burbs (1989) (2179732). **8.00** Married to the Mob (1989) (2181577). **10.00** The Package (1989) (8139935). **11.55** Masquerade (1988) (2043206). **1.30** Poltergeist II: the Other Side (1986) (9887368). **3.05** Margin for Murder (1981) (8385436). **4.40 - 6.00** The Reckless Moment (1949) (29948097).

BRAVO
8.00 The A-Team (8400003). **9.00** Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (4388596). **9.30** Cops (7405954). **10.00** Italian Stripping Housewives (2501461). **10.30** Red Shoe Diaries (2527409). **11.00 Film:** Ultimate Action: Red Scorpion 2 (1994) (3699225). **1.00** Beverly Hills Bordello (1436813). **1.30** Italian Stripping Housewives (3573233). **2.00** Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (3999146). **2.30** Cops (3901981). **3.00 Film:** Angel Heart (1987) (9277542). **5.00 - 6.00** A-Team (4425441).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 The Diceman (9175225). **4.30** Wheel Nuts (9171409). **5.00** First Flights (1071770). **5.30** Jurassica (9155461). **6.00** Wildlife SOS (9152374). **6.30** Kenya's Killers (7779867). **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (9172138). **8.00** Discover Magazine (8413577). **9.00** Hitler's Henchmen (8426041). *See Pick of the Day* **10.00** Warriors: Navy SEALS - the Silent Option (8436428). **11.00** Lotus Elise: Project M1:11 (2419393). **12.00** First Flights (7128639). **12.30** Wheel Nuts (9533455). **1.00** Warriors (5215829). **2.00** Close.

PICK OF THE DAY

NAZIS HAVE proved constantly fascinating for viewers - look at the success of the BBC's Bafta-winning series, *The Nazis: A Warning from History*. **Hitler's Henchmen (9pm Discovery)** investigates the contribution of Joachim von Ribbentrop to Hitler's foreign policy. Eyewitness accounts and contemporary *footage show* the Third Reich's foreign minister to have been one of the Führer's most unswerving followers. Sigourney Weaver (*right*) has made a speciality out of strong women characters (witness *Alien* and *Death and the Maiden*). She has to be particularly tough in Copycat (10.15pm Sky Movies Screen 2), Jon Amiel's graphic thriller. Teamed with the always reliable Holly Hunter, she plays a criminal psychologist pursued by a serial killer who is stalking the streets of San Francisco and re-enacting gruesome murders from the past. Not one to watch with a TV dinner on your lap.

JAMES RAMPTON

SKY 1
8.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (45312). **8.30** Street Sharks (44683). **9.00** *Garfield and* Friends (35935). **9.30** The Simpsons (87886). **10.00** Games World (3141022). **10.15** Games World (3131645). **10.30** *Just Kidding (31119).* **11.00** The New Adventures of Superman (1916). **12.00** Married with Children (55799). **12.30** M*A*S*H (1726931). **12.55** The Special K *Collection (9602515).* **1.00** *Geraldo* (9224138). **1.55** The Special K Collection (22034428). **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (3240567). **2.55** The Special K Collection (2622916). **3.00** *Jenny Jones* (3705916). **3.55** The Special K Collection (9523867). **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (91515). **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (2954). **6.00** The *Nanny* (7515). **6.30** Married with Children (8867). **7.00** The Simpsons (3683). **7.30** Real TV (7751). **8.00** Speed (9003). **8.30** Coppers (8138). **9.00** When Animals Attack IV (90374). **10.00** The Extraordinary (93461). **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (32409). **12.00** Nash Bridges (19417). **1.00 - 6.00** Long Play (5683287).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (5339886). **7.15** Football Special Dutch Master - Tribute to *Dennis Bergkamp (264003).* **8.15** Sky Sports Centre (4373916). **8.30** Racing News (86770). **9.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (77022). **9.30** High 5 (12883). **10.00** *Australian Rules Football (50549).* **12.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (97886). **12.30** Tales from the Premiership London Lights (23799). **1.00** Equestrianism - *Shell Cup (45409).* **3.00** *International* Bowls Australia v Northern Ireland (54954). **5.00** World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (2596). **6.00** Sky Sports *Centre (9577).* **6.30** *Tales from the Premiership* Managing to Succeed (3157). **7.00** Football League Review 1997/98 Season Review (83157). **9.00** Cricket - *Nat West Trophy Quarter-Final Leicestershire* v Warwickshire (30916). **10.00** Sky Sports Centre (202041). **10.15** Tales from the Premiership Managing to Succeed (986616). **10.45** Golf - Credit Suisse Banking Seniore Open (698206). **11.45** Sky Sports Centre (215003). **12.00** Cricket - Nat West Trophy Quarter-Final Leicestershire v Warwickshire (55287). **1.00** Equestrianism - Shell Cup (37900). **3.00** Tales from the Premiership Managing to Succeed (31900). **3.30** *Sports Centre (59939813).* **3.45** *Close.*

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (7876312). **7.30** Sky Sports Centre (5134848). **7.45** Racing News (5007041). **8.15** Tales from the Premiership London Lights (2319393). **8.45** Sky Sports Centre (2397374). **9.00** Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (7158041). **9.30** Fish TV (9517022). **10.00** International Bowls Australia v Northern Ireland (9637886). **12.00** Survival of the Fittest (7145577). **12.30** High 5 (9528138). **1.00** World Darts (8994374). **5.00** Fastrax (6309645). **5.30** Equestrianism - Shell Cup (5069816). **7.30** World Darts (4555577). **11.30** Sports Unlimited (7293732). **12.30** Sky Sports Centre (2846417). **12.45** Fastrax (2028184). **1.15** Tales from the Premiership Managing to Succeed (2025097). **1.45** Sky Sports Centre (57698639). **2.00** Close.

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (48803916). **1.00** Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (65715916). **1.30** Fish TV (48816480). **2.00** Sky Sports Classics (86998138). **3.00** Sportraits (40567225). **3.30** Fastrax (97140886). **4.00** European Golf Skills Challenge (40561041). **5.00** LPGA Golf: Giant Eagle Classic (27355190). **8.00** Major League Baseball - Game of the Week (27367935). **10.00** Superbouts George Foreman v Axel Schultz (27379770). **11.00** The Entertainers (38717916). **11.30** Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Football (84026). **9.00** Cycling: Tour de France (3874652). **2.00** Cycling: Tour de France (481916). **5.00** Equestrianism (7564). **6.00** Truck Racing (26886). **7.00** Football (78225). **9.00** Cycling: Tour de France (48935). **11.00** CART (93428). **12.30** Close.

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (2402003). **7.30** Neighbours (2724461). **7.55** EastEnders (3326461). **8.30** The Bill (5221751). **9.30** Stay Lucky (3185022). **10.30** The Sullivans (2524312). **11.00** Dallas (8093157). **11.55** Neighbours (88895312). **12.25** EastEnders (983490). **1.00** All Creatures Great and Small (7495577). **2.00** Dallas (6825799). **2.55** The Bill (1614515). **3.55** Dangerfield (5418935). **4.55** EastEnders (9553041). **5.30** Home to Roost (9164119). **6.00** All Creatures Great and Small (7408041). **7.00** The Comedy Alternative: 2point4 Children (2954577). **7.40** The Comedy Alternative: Dad's Army (9932916). **8.20** The *Comedy Alternative:* Canned Carrott (9335225). **9.00** The Young Ones (4188867). **9.40** This Life (8283799). **10.30** Shooting Stars (1408886). **11.10** The Bill (3584577). **12.10** Down Among the Big Boys (7756175). **1.50** The Equalizer (6852349). **2.35 - 7.00** Shopping at Night (71589788).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (3848225). **9.00** Rolonda (5410022). **9.50** Jerry Springer (4602041). **10.40** The Young and the Restless (8329393). **11.30** Brookside (5930848). **12.00** Jimmy's (9856428). **12.35** Animal Rescue (93805886). **1.00** Rescue 911 (1479683). **1.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (3990190). **2.05** Rolonda (6096312). **2.55** Living It Up! (2896596). **3.55** Jerry Springer (2550138). **4.45** Tempestt (8143312). **5.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (4962206). **6.10** Jerry Springer (9279732). **7.00** Rescue 911 (2407577). **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (9759770). **8.00** Side Effects (2178003). **8.00 Film:** Search for Sarah (1995) (2171190). **11.00** Sex Life Down Under (1456732). **12.00** Close.

TNT
8.00 Film: The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm (1962) (94265732). **11.15 Film:** Bridge to the Sun* (1961) (85610886). **1.15 Film:** Cabin in the Cotton* (1932) (18810610). **2.45 Film:** The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm (1962) (86645436). **5.00** Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC
N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: **6.30 - 7.00** Newsline 6.30

SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except: **6.00** News **6.30 - 7.00** Reporting Scotland; Weather **8.30 - 9.00** The Hello Girls

WALES As BBC1 London except: **6.30 - 7.00** Wales Today

ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 9.25 The Jerry Springer Show (2025770). **10.25** Justice of the Land (7390157). **11.25** Blue Heelers (3241454). **12.20** Anglia News and Weather (4775751). **1.00** Dinosaurs (64206). **1.30** *Home and Away* (35409). **2.00** Lunch in the Sun (2442645). **3.20** Anglia News and Weather (1188596). **5.10** Shortland Street (5292409). **6.00** Home and Away (774157). **6.25** Anglia News (662935). **7.30** Craven's Collectables (867). **10.00** ITN News; Weather (95634). **10.30** Anglia News and Weather (850747). **11.40** Baywatch Nights (752374). **12.40** *So You Think You're Irish* (1860813). **1.10** Planet Rock Profiles (6612610). **1.40** Best of British Motor Sport (3167523). **2.10** Film: Gaolbreak* (5875252). **3.15** True Life Tales (19230455). **3.40** ITV Sport Classics (16951078). **4.10** Ed's Night Party (59790469). **4.30** Nightscreen (97639).

CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (4775751). **12.30** ITN News; Weather (36138). **1.00** A Country Practice (64206). **3.20** Central News (1188596). **5.10** Shortland Street (5292409). **6.00** Home and Away (774157). **6.25** Central News and Weather (662935). **7.30** 24 Hours (867). **10.30** Central News, Weather and Travel Update (850747). **3.45** Jobfinder (720271). **5.20** Asian Eye (8004417).

HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 12.20 HTV News (4775751). **1.00** Shortland Street (64206). **1.30** Home and Away (35409). **2.00** Lunch in the Sun (2442645). **3.20** HTV News (1188596). **5.10** House to House (5292409). **6.00** Home and Away (774157). **6.25** Wales Tonight (662935). **7.30** Return to the Rhondda (867). **10.30** HTV News (850747). **11.40** Midnight *Caller (752374).* **12.40** *So You Think* You're Irish (1860813). **1.10** Planet Rock Profiles (6612610). **1.40** Best of British Motor Sport (3167523). **2.10** Film: Gaolbreak* (5875252). **3.15** True Life Tales (19230455). **3.40** ITV Sport Classics (16951078). **4.10** Ed's Night Party (59790469). **4.30** Nightscreen (97639).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 5.10 What's My Line? (5292409). **6.25** HTV West Weather (375935). **6.30** The West Tonight (683). **7.30** *Take 3* (867). **11.40** Frieze Frame (803428). **12.10** Tales from the Darkside (8339146).

MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 9.25 The Jerry Springer Show (2025770). **10.25** Justice of the Land (7390157). **11.25** Blue Heelers (3241454). **12.20** Meridian News and Weather (4775751). **1.00** Shortland Street (64206). **1.30** Home and Away (35409). **2.00** Lunch in the Sun (2442645). **3.20** Meridian News and Weather (1188596). **5.37** Three Minutes (477732). **6.00** *Meridian Tonight* (913). **6.30** Heritage: Love It or Lose It (683). **7.30** Quids In (867). **10.30** Meridian News and Weather (850747). **11.40** *Prisoner Cell Block H (752374).* **12.40** *So You Think You're Irish* (1860813). **1.10** Planet Rock Profiles (6612610). **1.40** Best of British Motor Sport (3167523). **2.10** Film: Gaolbreak* (5875252). **3.15** True Life Tales (19230455). **3.40** ITV Sport Classics (16951078). **4.10** Ed's Night Party (59790469). **4.30** ITV Nightscreen (29368). **5.00** *Freescreen* (79629).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 9.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4869022). **10.20** *Westcountry News (7410916).* **10.30** Film: This Can't Be Love (28351935). **12.15** Westcountry News (2495206). **1.00** Emmerdale (64206). **3.20** Westcountry News (1188596). **6.00** Westcountry Live (44157). **7.30** Make Yourself at Home (867). **10.30** Westcountry News (850747). **11.40** Short Story Cinema (602428). **12.10** Love at First Sight (8339146). **12.40** *So You Think You're* Irish (1860813). **1.10** Planet Rock Profiles (6612610). **1.40** Best of British Motor Sport (3167523). **2.10** Film: Gaolbreak* (5875252). **3.15** True Life Tales (19230455). **3.40** ITV Sport Classics (16951078). **4.10** Ed's Night Party (59790469). **4.30** ITV Nightscreen (29368). **5.00** *Freescreen* (79629).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 12.20 Calendar News and Weather (4775751). **1.00** Home and Away (25435119). **1.25** Lunch in the Sun (9927119). **2.10** Coronation Street (3709770). **3.20** Calendar News (1188596). **5.40** News; Weather (617022). **5.55** Calendar (97632225). **7.30** The Dales Diary (867). **10.30** Calendar News (850747). **4.20** Jobfinder (9194900).

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North East News and Weather (4775751). **3.20** North East News and Weather (1188596). **5.55** North East Weather (497596). **6.00** North East Tonight and Weather (44157). **10.30** North East News (850747).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 12.30 Ricki Lake (27480). **1.00** Slot Meithrin: Bwgan a Deri Deg (64288). **1.30** Film: Hellcats of the Navy* (57225). **3.00** Deals on Wheels (7480). **4.30** Ricki Lake (480). **6.00** 5Pump: Uned 5 (8225). **5.30** Countdown (732). **6.00** Newyddion 6 (105003). **6.10** Heno (333886). **7.00** Pobol y Cwm (685119). **7.25** Y Drindod - 150 (3272408). **8.30** Newyddion ar Gyllideb (4916). **9.00** Rasus (3751). **10.00** Brookside (844409). **10.35** Equinox (728022). **11.35** Tour de France (801799). **12.05** Barking (6338417). **12.35** Cybil (1869184). **1.05** Spin City (6611981). **1.35** Close.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS
WILLIAM HARTSTON

THE SMITH and Williamson British Championships began yesterday at the Riviera centre, Torquay, with the strongest field for a long time. The main interest will be in the participation of Nigel Short, returning to the British *Championship* after many years pursuing higher goals. His recent excellent victory in the Keres Memorial Tournament in Estonia will ensure that he begins as a strong favourite - particularly as Britain's current number one player Michael Adams will not be taking part - but Short can expect tough competition from Matthew Sadler, Tony Miles, Jon Speelman and a full supporting cast of grandmasters and international masters.

After losing commercial sponsorship in the Eighties, the British Championship went through a fallow period as it failed to offer the prizes and appearance fees needed to attract the top players. Now in their second year as sponsors of the event, Smith and Williamson have raised the top prize to £10,000 and restored the event to its former glory. It continues this week and next; results and the best games will appear in this column.

CREATIVITY
WILLIAM HARTSTON

IT'S THE 21st birthday of Superglue, so let's get stuck in. "For use by cricket groundsmen to produce sticky wickets," Don McNamara suggests, "or "to promote a lifelong bond on newlyweds' first night". Colin Archer says: "To keep body and soul together, or to seal Ian Paisley's mouth." Andrew Duncan had exactly the same Ian Paisley idea, but also suggested: "gluing together the flies of President Clinton's trousers or holding together the Left, Right and Centre of the Tory Party". Gordon Thynne recommends its use to "avoid disasters to Ascot bats on windy days". Norman Foster tells us that he once held down a job with Superglue. He advises marriage counsellors to try Superglue.

Sarah Hedley has decided to move to Japan and writes: "I was a little alarmed to hear of the average Japanese man's propensity for sniffing the seats of bicycles recently vacated by female riders. My mood was subsequently lifted by the thought of what a tube of carefully applied Superglue could do for the women's movement."

"Repair split infinitives." Nigel Plevin recommends. He also suggests that following the Stone, Bronze and Iron ages, we are now in the Bond age, which could explain why so many of us are strapped for cash. R J Pickles want to use it for keeping people in their places or ensuring that MPs stick to their election promises.

Lindsay Warden says she was rather stuck for ideas on this one but suggests giving some to the nouveaux riches to help them become more stuck up. She also suggests applying it post-Viagra to ensure a long-lasting effect. Sian Cole has sent us an example of how Superglue may he used to create fetching examples of erotic art.

P J Turner thinks it might be used to the benefit of English cricket by applying it to the bails when we're batting. Daniel Holloway wants to use it as a stunt double for James Bond. He also suggests gluing together all the fallen leave so that it always feels like summer or putting on lamp-posts to deter George Formby.

Mike Gifford wants to convert it into a gas, then let it free in the atmosphere to patch up the holes in the ozone layer. He also sees Superglue traps as an ethical replacement for land-mines. he also thinks it might be a disincentive to pickpockets. John O'Byrne comes up with the simplest suggestion: "Sticking the Super to the *Glue*."

Nicholas E Gough points out that there are no quotations related to "Superglue" or "glue" in *Chambers Dictionary of Quotations*, but it occurs to him that he would not have dropped the book if he'd had Superglue on his fingers.

"To reintegrate unclubbable stick insects into society," Bruce Birchall suggests, which sounds more humane than his other suggestion of "diarrhoea cure". Maguy Higgs tells us that Superglue is what Superman uses to keep his pants on outside his bodysuit at 400mph.

Extra erudition points to all who used it to help Macbeth screw his courage to the sticking-place, and Loctite Superglue prizes (the Original Bottle, the Original Tube, New Brusbable Instant Glue and the Matic Dispenser) to Sarah Hedley, Mike Gifford and John O'Byrne.

Next week, we shall be revealing what has happened to all those pairs of gaudy golfing trousers. meanwhile, we were rather disappointed to hear the lack of creativity in the ideas proposed by the Special Operations Executive during the war for assassinating Hitler. We shall be interested to hear better ones. Ideas to: Creativity, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. *Chambers Dictionary* prizes for those we like best.

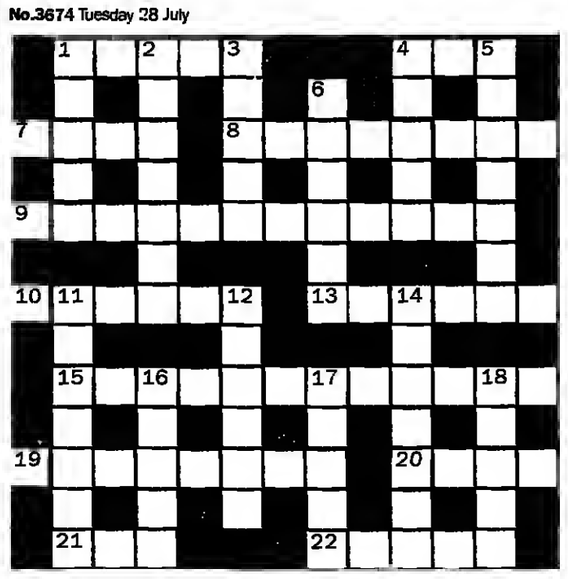
PUZZLE

1) RAIN, RUNG, ORE.
Can you find a four-letter word that can precede each of the above to form a longer word in each case?
2) RED, AL, ROB, UP.
Can you find a four-letter word into which each of the above may be inserted to create a longer word?
(Answers tomorrow).

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:
Charles Dickens; Hard Times.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3674 Tuesday 28 July



ACROSS
1 Masticates (5)
4 Scottish river (3)
7 Excessively studious pupil (4)
8 Unnecessary (8)
9 RAF rank (5,7)
10 To the rear (6)
13 Sword (6)
15 George, Patrick, Andrew, David, e.g. (6,6)
19 Type of cabbage salad (8)
20 Variety (4)
21 Small drink (3)
22 Navigation aid (5)

DOWN
1 Cringe (5)
2 Show lively interest (7)
3 Relating to sound (5)
4 Greek letter (5)
5 Distinctive quality (7)
6 Assistant (6)
11 Maintain (7)
12 Piece of pasta used in soup (6)
14 Sharp (7)
16 Larceny (5)
17 Drain (5)
18 Become narrower (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Lank, 4 Aster (Lancaster), 9 Apron, 10 Beloved, 11 Hawk-eyed, 12 Holy, 13 *Penny-pinching*, 17 Cast, 18 *Starling*, 21 *Embargo*, 22 *Model*, 23 *Guess*, 24 *Leap*. DOWN: 2 Arrow, 3 Kennedy, 4 Abbreviations, 5 Tell, 6 Ravioli, 7 Wash up, 8 Eddy, 14 Nosebag, 15 Caramel, 16 Giggle, 17 Crew, 19 India, 20 Brie.

TUESDAY TELEVISION

THOMAS SUTCLIFFE
TELEVISION REVIEW

HERE'S A HANDY tip for the weak-willed. If you can't resist the temptation to use your credit card for impulse purchases, then drop it into a bowl of water and put the bowl into the freezer. Your card will be quite safe but you will have to plan carefully before you use it. The woman who passed on this piece of advice also suggested that you should keep your money in three purses nested inside each other like Russian dolls, so that the process of paying for something will always allow time for second thoughts. This also seems like a good recipe for getting yourself beaten up by the people behind you in the queue, but I suppose she would simply look on the bright side and tally up the food savings involved in a long hospital stay. In the second episode of The Temptation Game (BBC1), Angus Deayton considered those who try and resist their desires - but he didn't deal with that very familiar failure of self-control which occurs when you find yourself watching programmes like this - well made and full of mildly diverting curiosities but essentially a waste of precious time.

I should have switched off after the brief report on the Servants of Love - an unorthodox Roman Catholic grouping who make their own information films about resisting sexual temptation. Brother Kevin, the writer-director, had come up with a brilliant little scenario in which a man has tea with a female friend. First they tucked happily into some little pink cupcakes and then the man made his big play: "Would you be after having some big cake?" he said, eyes gleaming as he pushed it forward. "Ach," she replied, "I couldn't eat another bite." The little cakes, apparently, stood for intimate acts of affection falling short of full sexual intercourse (though how far short was left rather vague), which had quelled the appetite without sin. This seemed like a hazardous analogy for sexual desire to me, given that, for most people, the more you eat the more you went. You could imagine some teenagers following this example: "It doesn't seem to be working, Fionnula, I think we'd better have some more little cakes. I just can't seem to get that big one out of my mind." As I say, I should have switched off but I couldn't resist watching the next few minutes and then the next, until I found I'd watched the whole damn thing. Now I hate myself but I can't find a bowl big enough to fit the telly into.

Secret History's account of a disastrous rehearsal for the D-Day landings (C4) was afflicted with a similar sense of pointlessness. This was partly because the ballyhooed secrecy of the subject matter - a catastrophe at Slapton Sands - has been a bit transparent in recent years. Television companies have a tendency to assume that only television coverage matters - so that a subject can be described as "shrouded in mystery" even if it has featured on the front page of a national newspaper, but even so, they seemed to be pushing things a little too far here. The programme itself was well made - and added the voices of German E-boat veterans to material that was already part of the public domain - but it was also afflicted by the oddity of considering this disaster as if it had been a peace-time exercise, conducted under Health and Safety rules, rather than a hazardous operation in wartime. For the Allies to have instituted an inquiry just six weeks before the D-Day landings would have been like fretting over a scorch mark while in the middle of a forest fire. For them not to have kept it secret would have been grossly negligent. Besides, Eisenhower's conclusion in his official history that "valuable lessons had been learned" might have been the truth, not just a bit of non-combatant obfuscation. It's terrible that so many men died - but we can never know how many didn't die later because commanders knew how badly things could go wrong.

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[illegible fine print]

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (19119). **7.00** News (T) (72003). **9.00** Kilroy (S) (3938480). **9.40** What Now? (S) (4579799). **10.05** Meet the Challenge (S) (3315288). **10.30** Good Living (R) (S) (T) (9898190). **10.55** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1114041). **11.00** Great Railway Journeys (R) (S) (T) (6796729) **11.58** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6702886). **12.00** Every Second Counts (R) (S) (T) (15157). **12.30** A Word in Your Ear (S) (T) (34770). **1.00** News; Weather (T) (75190). **1.30** Regional News; Weather (15531491). **1.40** Neighbours (S) (T) (49975515).

2.05 Glorious Goodwood and Cricket. The annual summer racing festival from the Sussex Downs begins with the 2.15, 2.45, 3.20 and 3.50 races (S) ([illegible])

4.10 Children's BBC: Gadget Boy (9841954). **4.35** Round the Twist (R) (S) (T) (3795935). **5.00** Newsround (S) (T) (3843374). **5.10** The Famous Five (S) (T) (6248515).

5.35 Neighbours. Madge gets lost in the park (S) (T) (415506).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (835).

6.30 Regional News. And weather (T) (515).

7.00 Holidays Out. A day's shopping in Calais, London by stretch limo, a sing party in the Lake District, and the Scottish Borders by horse-drawn carriage (S) (T) (6751).

7.30 EastEnders. Grant plans a future for himself and Tiffany away from the Vic. Cue that handy, mildly psychotic look we all know and love (S) (T) (799).

8.00 Vets in Practice. A pet rabbit with a life-threatening abscess, and an apparently intriguing case of horse poisoning (S) (T) (2799).

8.30 Crime Beat. How the police are now looking to former thieves and robbers to advise them on how best to turn the tables on their fellow felons (S) (T) (1206).

9.00 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1428).

9.30 CHOICE Maisie Raine. Pauline Quirke joins the ranks of TV detectives. See *Drama of the Day*, below (S) (T) (775645).

10.20 Inside Story: Confessions of a Car Salesmen. A look at the world of car dealers. Where do they get that patter? (S) (T) (199461).

11.15 Chicago Hope (S) (T) (307848). **12.00** Cricket – Fourth Test England v South Africa (S) (7770252).

12.50 FILM Ballad in Blue (Paul Henreid 1965 UK). Some pretty unspectacular concert footage of blues legend Ray Charles is all but smothered by a cloying backstory about Charles (playing himself - or a near version of) helping a recently blinded English boy to get specialist treatment in Paris. Tom Bell co-stars (T) (5379320).

2.15 Joins BBC News 24 (65953104). To 6.00am.

BBC2

6.10 The Magic Flute (7511374). **6.35** Public Murals in New York (5048577).

7.00 Children's BBC: Open a Door (R) (S) (3088138). **7.05** Teletubbies (S) (1486936). **7.30** Bertha (R) (S) (4050751). **7.45** Dink, the Little Dinosaur (S) (6045770). **8.10** 50/50 (S) (T) (2065935). **8.35** X-Men (R) (S) (T) (8139461). **9.05** Kunen and Kat (R) (1209596). **9.30** Ocean Odyssey (R) (38596). **10.00** Teletubbies (R) (4705729).

10.25 Cricket – NatWest Trophy: Leicestershire v Warwickshire. Live coverage from Grace Road of this NatWest Trophy 60 overs-per-side quarter final match introduced by Tony Lewis, with commentary by Jack Bannister, Richie Benaud and David Gower (85383312).

12.45 Working Lunch (681596). **1.15** Cricket – NatWest Trophy (S) ([illegible]). **2.40** News; Regional News; Weather (T) ([illegible]). **2.45** Westminster (S) ([illegible]). **3.25** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1183041).

3.30 Cricket – NatWest Trophy. Tony Lewis introduces further live coverage of one of today's NatWest Trophy quarter-finals between Leicestershire and Warwickshire. With commentary from Richie Benaud, David Gower, Jack Bannister and Chris Broad (R) ([illegible])

7.30 Home Ground. "The Forgotten Children". A BBC South West documentary looking at the lack of provision and care for the parents of terminally ill children (T) (111).

8.00 Meet the Ancestors. Archaeologist Julian Richards joins the team excavating a massive stone coffin from a building site in Bristol. Whose was it? (R) (S) (T) (3041).

8.30 Ground Force. Alan Titchmarsh and team join forces with the crew of "Blue Watch" to create a garden on the grounds of Bromley Fire Station (S) (T) (98411).

9.00 Dad's Army. Now listen up everybody. Another episode from the very first series, being shown to celebrate its 30th anniversary (R) (T) (2770).

9.30 In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great. Historian Michael Wood continues racing after the all-conquering Macedonian, tracing his progress through war-torn Afghanistan, crossing the Oxus river into central Asia to the silk route city of Samarkand where, in a drunken brawl, Alexander killed the friend who had previously saved his life (T) (25138).

10.30 Newsnight. With Jeremy Vine (T) (995067).

11.15 Ruby. Her guests are playwright Neil Simon, actress Anna Massey and novelist Josephine Hart (Followed by Weatherview) (S) (T) (398190).

12.00 The Midnight Hour (37726) **12.30** BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Building by Numbers (82788). **1.00** The Programmes (13149). **1.30** "Artware" Computers in the Arts (39297). **2.00** The Greats: Champions of Nature (61078). **4.00** Languages. The Travel Hour (78558). **5.00** Business and Training: Career Moves (42343419). To 5.45am.

ITV Carlton

6.00 GMTV (1917003).

9.25 Children's ITV: Extreme Dinosaurs (8218888). **9.50** Judge Judy (4544003). **10.20** Local News (7410916).

10.30 FILM This Can't Be Love (Anthony Harvey 1994 US). Katharine Hepburn and Anthony Quinn play opposite each other for the first time as retired movie stars whose love is rekindled after 50 years (95706515).

12.20 Your Shout (4775751). **12.30** News; Weather (T) (36138). **1.00** London Today (T) (64206). **1.30** Lunch in the Sun (5066598). **2.15** Home and Away (699515). **2.45** Supermarket Sweep (R) (698886). **3.15** ITN News Headlines (T) (1181603). **3.20** London Today (1188596).

3.25 Children's ITV: Tots TV (1178119). **3.35** Jamboree (7584225). **3.45** Rocky and the Dodos (S) (7564461). **4.00** Dastardly and Muttley's Flying Machines (R) (4050913). **4.15** Extreme Ghostbusters (9835393). **4.40** Minty (4592010). **5.10** Home and Away (S) (T) (5292409).

5.40 News; Weather (T) (331190).

6.00 London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East (T) (913).

6.30 Home Truths. A team from Burlington Danes School in Shepherd's Bush meets one from Islington Green School (S) (883).

7.00 Emmerdale. Kim's baby, James, falls dangerously ill in the unmissable Yorkshire soap (S) (T) (8119).

7.30 Motorway. This week's edition features a man "in love with the M25", a pack of Hull's Angels, and the team who mow the grass on the central reservation (067).

8.00 The Bill. Greig makes a career decision while investigating a crack dealer (T) (7867).

8.30 Loved by You. Scene-for-scene transplant of a successful US sitcom, which means it's mildly funny. With John Gordon Sinclair (S) (T) (6374).

9.00 P D James – A Certain Justice. 3/3. Concluding this particular yarn, with Roy Marsden's Commander Dalgliesh with a second murder to investigate - that of the cleaner Janet Carpenter. The prime suspect, meanwhile, has headed off for a "romantic adventure" on the Norfolk coast with Octavia (S) (T) (2409).

10.00 News; Weather (T) (95634).

10.30 London Tonight (T) (850747).

10.40 Inside Burma – Land of Fear. An updated repeat of John Pilger's secretly filmed report from inside the military regime of Burma – being shown on the 10th *anniversary of the unsuccessful 1988 democracy* uprising (R) (T) (729751).

11.40 Renegade (752371). **12.40** So You Think You're Irish (R) (1503320). **1.15** Planet Rock Profiles (S) (14455). **1.45** Best of British Motor Sport (13726).

2.15 FILM Gaolbreak (Francis Searle 1962 UK). Sole-breaking B-movie. No stars, past or future (5874523).

3.20 True Life Tales (19237360). To 3.45am.

Channel 4

7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (98041). **9.00** The Bigger Breakfast (R) (88003). **9.30** California Dreams (R) (S) (T) (23684). **10.00** Hang Time (R) (S) (T) (1042022). **10.40** The Secret World of Alex Mack (R) (T) (9800935). **11.10** Planet Pop (7357428). **11.45** Eerie, Indiana (T) (4134886). **12.30** Mission Impossible (T) (35664).

1.35 FILM The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (Michael Curtiz 1939 US). Sumptuous colour costume drama with Bette Davis's barn-storming, multi-faceted Queen Elizabeth I blowing Errol Flynn's Earl of Essex off the screen. Flynn can't compete and seems to know it, although that's no excuse for the turgid scenes where he takes himself off to Ireland to beat up Alan Hale's rebellious Tyrone (T) (94352732).

3.30 Watercolour Challenge (T) (481). **4.00** Fifteen to One - the Big Winners (R) (S) (596). **4.30** Countdown (S) (T) (3789374). **4.55** Ricki Lake (R) (S) (T) (5266577).

5.30 Pet Rescuers. A man who has given over his semi-detached home to rescued reptiles (S) (T) (732).

6.00 Tour de France. Another gruelling day in the Alps, 204km from Vizille to Albertville (645).

6.30 The Cosby Show. Cliff goes for his annual check-up in the rerun Eighties buppy sitcom (R) (S) (T) (225).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (S) (T) (256683).

7.50 Summer Rites. Another look behind the scenes of "London's premier gay festival" (T) (741409).

8.00 Absolutely Animals. Uncovers a dog-poisoning scandal in Italy (T) (5409).

8.30 Brookside. Max and Susannah set off for their holiday – not realising that their secret is in danger of being discovered (S) (T) (4916).

9.00 Equinox: The Miracle Police. In the last 20 years, the Pope has acknowledged hundreds of miracles – more than all of his 20th-century predecessors put together. Alex Marengo's film follows the procedure of "authenticating" these so-called miracles – involving teams of doctors and scientists, as well as theologians (T) (3751).

10.00 The Tommyknockers. 2/2. This two-part Stephen King repeat concludes. Just what is buried in the small town of Haven, Maine? And why is Jimmy Smits the only one who seems immune to its strange, unseen forces? (R) (S) (T) (580935).

11.50 Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City (R) (S) (T) (631393). **1.45** The Real World (R) (S) (11368). **2.15** A Sort of Homecoming (R) (5526233). **2.40** Dark Horses (R) (6758349). **3.15** Auto Erotic (R) (S) (T) (92233).

3.45 FILM Blonde Bombshell (Victor Fleming 1933 US). Snappily scripted comedy satire with Jean Harlow as a dumb-blonde movie star being wooed by Franchot Tone with lines such as "Your hair is like a field of daisies – I should like to run barefoot through your hair". Fun (728813). To 5.20am.

Channel 5

6.00 5 News and Sport (S) (3253867). **7.00** WideWorld (S) (T) (1343954). **7.30** Milkshake! (S) (9835916). **7.35** Dappledown Farm (R) (4780886). **8.00** Havakazoo (S) (3450848). **8.30** Alvin and the Chipmunks (R) (3459119). **9.00** Sterling from Scratch (3473799). **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (S) (6758409). **10.20** Sunset Beach (S) (T) (4624683). **11.10** Leeza (R) (S) (6044577). **12.00** 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (3453935). **12.30** Family Affairs (S) (T) (3083190). **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (1342225). **1.30** Sons and Daughters (3082461).

2.00 FILM The Gangster (Gordon Wiles 1947 UK). Grim-faced Barry Sullivan is well-cast in this fatalistic thriller about a man falling victim to his slum environment and becoming a hoodlum (4827799).

3.35 CHOICE Tarzan and His Mate (Cedric Gibbons 1934 US). Johnny Weissmuller gets oiled up and into his loincloth. See *Film of the Day*, below (3394683).

5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah is joined by singer Bonnie Raitt (S) (5857916).

6.00 100 Per Cent. 100 questions, three contestants and the most irritating jingle on television (S) (1476918).

6.30 Family Affairs. Nick is reluctant to start work without planning permission. Charlie confesses to murder to gain access to Mel. As you do (S) (T) (1490596).

7.00 5 News, including First on Five. Kirsty Young and the pitter-patter of tiny feet (S) (T) (5056848).

7.30 Animal Outposts. Documentary about the surprising variety of wildlife that live on the bleak island of Hormoz, off the south coast of southern Iran (R) (1489480).

8.00 Hidden Worlds. More wildlife, this time about the world's largest lizard, which is found in Indonesia (S) (5065596).

8.30 What Went Wrong? Tragedies caught on camera, including a German air-show disaster, a river rescue in LA, and an explosion in New Jersey (S) (5044003).

9.00 FILM The Tuskegee Airmen (Robert Markowitz 1995 US). Traditionally packaged but intrinsically interesting Second World War drama about the "Fighting 99th", the first all-black fighter squadron, which was handpicked in 1942 by the liberals in Washington in an attempt to advance race relations – but were subject to large-scale racial abuse. The film takes the old-fashioned war-movie route through training and into combat, with chief emphasis on the characters played by Laurence Fishburne and Cuba Gooding Jr (T) (2034022).

11.00 Not the Jack Docherty Show. Talk Radio's Carol McGiffin stands in for Docherty. (S) (6032577).

11.40 La Femme Nikita (R) (S) (1352664). **12.35** Live and Dangerous (S) (22483368). **3.45** Asian Football Show (S) (7933875). **4.40** Prisoner: Cell Block H (1799610). **5.30** 100 Per Cent (S) (3308320). To 6.00am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

LATER ON...
UK ARENA
Joy Division
& New Order.
Tonight
at 11.00pm.
UK ARENA

DRAMA OF THE DAY

MAISIE RAINE (930pm BBC1, *right*) Pauline Quirke follows David Jason's footsteps from comedy into TV detection, playing the conventionally unconventional DI Maisie Raine – her distinguishing features being the keeping of a garden allotment and a brother two degrees more bent than Arthur Daley. Actually, Stephen Hill's new creation isn't quite sure whether it wants to be *Minder*, *Birds of a Feather*, *Prime Suspect* or even all three in one go. Quirke herself goes around shouting like she's still bossing the Chingford household around, a curiously one-note performance from an actress we know from *The Sculptress* and *Our Boy* to have a good range. Perhaps it's just the over-busy writing. That, I suspect, that will improve with age.

FILM OF THE DAY

TARZAN AND HIS MATE (3.35pm C5, *right*) Cheerfully erotic pre-Hayes Code follow-up to the 1932 *Tarzan, the Ape Man*, with former Olympic swimming champ Johnny Weissmuller giving early talkie audiences a thrill by shaving his legs and chest, oiling up the lot and wriggling into a skimpy loincloth. The cry – part yodel this parents were both Austrian – was as parodic as the crazy African jungle scene in the MGM backlots, where Maureen O'Sullivan's Jane brings domestic order to Tarzan's tree house, assisted by a devoted gorilla. The plot involves a couple of big-game hunters and old Mayfair chums of Jane (Neil Hamilton and Paul Cavanagh) causing some trouble. But it's the whole background kitsch of the thing that is such fun.

The Entertainment Channel

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